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HANDBOOK

FOR THE

303-IN. VICKERS MACHINE GUN

Mounted on Tripod Mounting, Mark IV.

APRIL, 1918.

(Reprinted September, 1918.)



LONDON:

PRINTED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

By HARRISON & SONS, ST. MARTIN'S LANE, W.G. 2,

PRINTERS IN ORDINARY TO HIS MAJESTY.

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Handbook for the ·303-in. VICKERS MACHINE GUN.

SECTION I.—HINTS FOR INSTRUCTORS.

1. Always inform the squad before beginning the lesson :—
 - (a) The subject for instruction.
 - (b) The object of the lesson.
2. Make sure that every member of the squad fully understands the previous lesson before proceeding to the next.
3. Be brief and keep to the point. Do not dwell on non-essentials.
4. Talk to the squad, not to the gun.
5. Do not shout—talk loud enough for all the squad to hear.
6. Illustrate each point as you explain it. Do not try to explain anything that cannot be seen.
7. Always have the kit ready.
8. Take notes in writing as to the progress made in each subject by each member of the squad.
9. Make yourself acquainted each evening with the next day's work, and prepare your instruction carefully.
10. The success of a squad in mechanical work largely depends on the zeal and ability of the instructor.

11. The method of instruction will be based on the following sequence :—

- (a) Demonstration.—The instructor should show exactly how a thing takes place in the gun or is done.
- (b) Explanation.—The instructor gives in a few words a description of what takes place or is done.
- (c) Imitation.—The gunner under instruction tries to perform what he has just seen the instructor do.
- (d) Interrogation.—The instructor asks a few questions of those under instruction to see that they fully understand the lesson.

SECTION II.—NOMENCLATURE OF PARTS OF GUN.

1. The following is the nomenclature of parts of the gun :—

Lock.—Consisting of casing ; side levers, axis bush and split keeper pin ; extractor levers right and left ; extractor ; gib ; gib spring and cover ; sear and spring ; trigger and axis pin ; tumbler and axis pin ; firing pin ; lock spring.*

Block, feed.—Consisting of body† ; slide ; top and bottom levers and split fixing pin ; top and bottom pawls (front and rear), springs and axis pins.

Rear crosspiece.—Consisting of body ; T-fixing pin ; joint pin, check nut and keeper pin ; firing lever with pawl and axis pin ; trigger bar lever ; safety catch, axis

* Either No. 1 or 2.

† Supplied both in steel and gunmetal. The latter are marked "V ·303-in." on the top side.

pin, spring with piston ; milled heads with oil brushes and leather washers.

Box, fuze spring.—

Spring, fuze.—Including fittings.

Screw adjusting fuze spring.—Including vice pin.

Fuze.—With chain and fixing pin.

Plate, side, right.—Including side plate spring.

Plate, side, left.—Including side plate spring.

Crank.—Including crank pin and fixing pin.

Rod, connecting.—Including adjusting nut and six washers ; three No. 1 (.003-inch) ; three No. 2 (.005-inch).

Handle, crank.—Including fixing pin.

Barrel.—With asbestos packing.

Sight, tangent.—Consisting of stem ; graduated plate* and upper and lower fixing screws ; slide ; pinion ; pawl and fixing pin ; slide spring ; milled head and fixing screw ; axis pin ; tangent sight spring and piston.**

Cover, rear.—Consisting of cover ; cover lock, axis pin and spring ; trigger bar and spring ; cover joint pin with check nut and keeper pin.

Cover, front.—

Casing, barrel.—Consisting of casing ; steam tube with slide valve and keeper screw ; packing gland† ; asbestos packing ; two screwed plugs each with link, S-hook and stud ; protector for condenser boss with chain and swivel ; cork plug, with chain and two S-hooks.

* No. 1 Mark I for Mark VI ammunition.

2 VII

** A Mark II slide has now been introduced, consisting of slide, pinion, Mark II ; clamping nut and split pin ; clamping screw and fixing pin.

† When the muzzle attachment is used this is kept in the spare parts box.

Sight, fore.—

Casing, breech.—Consisting of casing ; check lever‡ and keeper pin ; sliding shutter with catch, keeper pin, spring and plunger ; left slide ; right slide with roller, collar and split fixing pin ; front cover catch, keeper pin, plunger, plug and spring.

Muzzle attachment for ball-firing.—Consisting of outer casing, with split keeper pin, chain, S-hook and stud ; disc ; front cone (end cover)† ; muzzle cup, with clamping screw‡ ; and gland.

N.B.—Breech casings and barrel are riveted together and cannot be separated.

SECTION III.—GENERAL DESCRIPTION.

SYSTEM OF INSTRUCTION TO BE FOLLOWED.

Illustrate and Explain each Part. Do not expect Men to learn Names of all Parts in one or two Lessons.

Name.—303-inch Vickers gun.

Weights.—Weight of gun, 28½ lbs. (including muzzle attachment, weighing about 1 lb.), 38½ lbs. with water in casing. Guns of later manufacture, in which a number of the refinements for the sake of lightness are omitted, are about 4 lbs. heavier.

* Earlier pattern Mark I were fitted with a piston and spring. The latter are now obsolescent.

† A Mark II front cone has now been introduced. This requires a Mark II end cover.

‡ A Mark II muzzle cup, which screws on to the barrel, has now been introduced.

The Gun is worked by two forces.—1. The explosion of the charge.

2. A spring called the fuzee spring.

Rate of fire.—The gun fires normally at the rate of about 500 rounds per minute.

The gun is divided into two portions.—1. The non-recoiling portions.

2. The recoiling portions.

The non-recoiling portions consist of the barrel casing and the breech casing, including the outer casing of the muzzle attachment and the gland.

The recoiling portions consist of the barrel and the two side-plates which carry the lock and crank. The muzzle cup is part of the recoiling portions.

NON-RECOILING PORTIONS.

BARREL CASING.—EXTERIOR.

The barrel casing is of steel, with longitudinal corrugations for strengthening purposes.

On the front end of the barrel casing is fitted the muzzle attachment. The outer casing of the muzzle attachment is a hollow cylinder screwed internally at the front end to receive the front cone. It is bored and grooved at the rear end to form an inner flange interrupted for connection with the gland, which has an outer flange correspondingly interrupted to engage with it.

Vent holes for the escape of gases are cut near the front end of the casing.

A split pin is attached to the outer casing by means of a chain connection. The pin can be entered in any one of three holes bored at equal distances in the outer casing for

engagement with any one of three corresponding holes in the gland.

The disc is placed in the front end of the outer casing, and is pressed home and held in position by the front cone.

A Mark II front cone has been introduced. This is bullet-proof. Unlike the Mark I, it is conical at the front, in order that if it is struck by bullets the latter may glance off again. When the gun is not being fired, the bullet exit hole in the front end of the front cone should be kept covered up by the end cover, as a precaution against the entrance of mud, &c. A separate pattern of end cover is provided for each type of front cone, viz., Mark I and II respectively. The end cover is attached to the S-hook of the existing chain connection by a second chain and S-hook.

To prevent the escape of water there is at the forward end of the barrel casing asbestos packing, which is held in position round the barrel by the packing gland.

The gland is screwed into the packing gland seating at the front end of the barrel casing and acts as a front bearing for the barrel.

The gland and front cone have flanges which are grooved to receive the combination tool provided for assembling and stripping purposes.

Above the gland is the screwed head of the steam tube. It is retained in position by a keeper screw.

On top of the barrel casing is the foresight. It is $\frac{1}{4}$ inch to the left of the axis of the barrel in order to make the lines of sight and fire parallel. It is protected by side wings, formed on the block fixed to the barrel casing, into which the foresight is dovetailed. There is an opening in the right wing, through which the foresight is assembled, and a punch hole in the left wing for adjusting and removing.

A cork plug is provided, which is inserted in the steam escape hole when the gun is travelling, in order to prevent waste of water.

The plug should always be taken out before firing is begun, and put in again before the position of the gun is changed. The cork plug fits into a special fitting made to receive a condenser tube. This fitting is provided with a protector to be used when the condenser tube is not connected with the gun.

On the underside of the barrel casing is a hole for drawing off the water. It is closed by a screwed plug.

On top of the barrel casing is a hole for filling the barrel casing with water. It is closed by a screwed plug. The hole is placed slightly to the side of the barrel casing in order to prevent the barrel casing from being completely filled, which might lead to damage during frosty weather, and also in order to prevent the steam tube from being fouled by the filling funnel.

At the rear end of the barrel casing is a sleeve, through which the barrel passes on being assembled. The barrel bearing is at this rear end of the barrel casing.

When the gun is assembled the front of the barrel block bears against the face of the barrel bearing. At the rear end of the casing are the barrel rests, to give support to the barrel through the side-plates.

There is a seating for ejection on the bottom of the barrel casing, which ensures the empty case being knocked off the extractor should it fail to drop off before the extractor is in a position to rise.

Under the rear end of the casing is a bracket to take the cross-head joint pin, which secures the gun to the mounting.

BARREL CASING.—INTERIOR.

The barrel casing holds about 7 pints of water.

The water commences to boil after about 600 rounds have been fired continuously. It evaporates at the rate of about $1\frac{1}{2}$ pints per 1,000 rounds, and approximately 2,000 rounds may be fired continuously before the barrel casing requires refilling.

The inside of the barrel casing is tinned to prevent rust.

The front end of the barrel casing contains a gunmetal guide, to lead the barrel through the front of the barrel casing when the barrel is being replaced after stripping. It forms a bearing for the barrel, and at the same time a seating for the asbestos packing.

Guns of later manufacture have, leading up to this guide and extending rearwards, a brass trough, which fits into the bottom central corrugation of the casing, being riveted to the casing at each end of the corrugation. A few guns have a short trough at the front end only. The object of the trough is to facilitate assembling, and to prevent the tinned surface of the casing from being scratched off by the muzzle of the barrel.

The steam tube, which is of brass, consists of a fixed tube and an outer tube (termed the slide valve), so arranged as to slide freely along the fixed tube. In the fixed tube there is a hole near each end, and in the threaded portion in front a third hole, which connects with the steam escape hole by a tube attached to the interior of the barrel casing. The steam tube is screwed into the front end of the barrel casing, and is retained in position by a keeper screw, which ensures the third hole being connected with the steam escape hole. At the breech end it fits into a thimble fixed to the rear end of the barrel casing.

If the gun is fired with elevation, the valve slides backwards and, closing up the hole at the rear end of the tube, prevents the water from entering. At the same time the front hole is left uncovered, and, being above the water level, allows the steam to enter the tube and escape through the steam escape hole in the barrel casing. Similarly, if the gun is fired with depression, the valve slides forward, and allows the steam (but not the water) to escape through the rear hole. When the gun is horizontal either one or both holes are uncovered by the valve.

BREECH CASING.—EXTERIOR.

The breech casing which is riveted to the barrel casing consists of:—

- (1) Two outside plates (right and left).
- (2) A bottom plate.
- (3) Two covers (front and rear).
- (4) The rear cross-piece.

RIGHT OUTSIDE PLATE.

It is cut away to enable the feed block to be inserted in the gun. The left outside plate is similarly cut away.

To the outside of the right plate is riveted the check lever bracket, on the outside stud of which the check lever pivots. There are two patterns of brackets, Mark I and Mark II. The Mark I bracket is grooved on the inside face to fit over the rib on the lightened pattern of plate, whilst on the Mark II two studs are formed for engagement in holes bored in the unlightened plate. A few brackets of the Mark II pattern have only one stud, these have not proved very satisfactory

some having been found to work loose. Such should be replaced where necessary by the later pattern, which requires fitting by an armourer or artificer, in accordance with para. 17743, L. of C. The early pattern of Mark I bracket has a second stud on the outside, which was provided as a bearing for a check lever piston with spring.* In brackets of later manufacture this second stud is omitted. The check lever is secured to the outer stud by a keeper pin, the stud being grooved for the pin, necessary clearance being allowed for the movement of the check lever and pin.

A slot is cut at the rear end of the right outside plate in which the crank bearings slide.

The slot is partially closed by a slide which carries a roller. The roller is kept in position by a collar and split pin.

At the rear end of the right outside plate is a hole through which the threaded end of the "T" fixing pin passes.

LEFT OUTSIDE PLATE.

On the outside of the left plate are two studs for holding the front end of the fuze spring box; a third stud for holding the rear end of the fuze spring box is fitted on the slide.

The fuze spring box contains a strong spiral spring called the fuze spring, the rear end of which is connected by the fuze chain and fuze with the crank. The front end is attached to the breech casing by means of the fuze spring box and adjusting screw, which passes through the front end of the fuze spring box, and through the nut at the front end of the spring.

* Earlier Mark I pattern check levers were fitted with a piston and spring now obsolescent. A Mark II pattern is now supplied. This is longer and heavier at its upper end.

The fuze spring can be adjusted without removing the box, as the vice pin of the screw is loose. This screw is kept in position by two nibs which enter recesses in the front end of the fuze spring box and are retained by the tension of the fuze spring.

On the left outside plate is the front cover catch for securing the front cover.

This catch must be turned up in order that the cover may be opened. The catch, when down, is kept in position by a plunger, plug and spring.

A slot is cut at the rear end of the left outside plate in which the crank bearings slide.

The slot is partially closed by a slide which carries a stud.

The rear end has a hole to allow the "T" fixing pin to be inserted.

Underneath the left outside plate is the elevating stop. Without this it is possible for the bracket head of the mounting to damage the fuze spring box.

BOTTOM PLATE.

There is an opening in the bottom plate through which the empty cartridge cases fall to the ground. This opening has a sliding shutter, which, when shut, prevents dirt, &c., from entering the gun. The shutter must be moved to the rear before the gun can be loaded. If the shutter is closed after loading, only one shot can be fired; but the empty case will remain in the breech casing, and another cartridge will be fed up; the extractor dropping on to the shutter will prevent the lock from going forward. The shutter is secured by a catch, with thumbpiece, plunger and spring.

Under the bottom plate is the elevating bracket, to take the elevating joint pin, which secures the gun to the elevating gear.

REAR CROSSPIECE.

The outside plates are connected at the rear end by the rear crosspiece, which is hinged at the bottom by a screwed joint pin and fixed at the top by the "T" fixing pin. The rear crosspiece is fitted with handles of wood, inside which are steel cylinders for carrying oil, closed by milled heads fitted with brushes, firing lever with thumbpiece and pawl safety catch, and safety catch piston and spring.

FRONT AND REAR COVERS.

The two covers are both hinged on one joint pin attached to the outside plates just behind the feed block. The pin is secured by a check nut with a keeper pin.

The joint also forms a tie for the outside plates.

On top of the rear cover is the tangent sight, which is positioned by a piston and spring. The sight, when down, rests on a bridge, which is solid with the rear cover and strengthens it. The sight is of "U" pattern.

The tangent sight consists of a stem, a plate graduated up to 2,900 yards, and a slide. Running through the centre of the slide is a pinion, the teeth of which work in the rack on the stem. A pawl is secured to the pinion by a fixing pin. On the underside of one end of the pawl are teeth which engage in the circular rack on the slide.

When the slide is at rest the stud on the inside of the milled head (nearest the slot for the slide spring) bears on the stud on the pawl immediately over the teeth, being actuated by the slide spring, and thus forcing the teeth into the circular

rack. This keeps the slide stationary on the stem. When the milled head is rotated this stud is partly disengaged from the stud on the pawl, thus permitting a second stud on the milled head to press on one side of the V-shaped ramp at the other end of the pawl. This action releases the teeth sufficiently to permit of the pawl being moved round the circular rack by the action of the stud bearing on one side of the V-shaped ramp on the pawl. This moves the slide along the stem. When the milled head is released the spring positions the cover, thus causing the stud on the pawl to become once more engaged with the stud on the milled head and to force the teeth into the rack.

A Mark II slide has been approved in which a pinion wheel working in the rack on the stem is used to raise and lower the slide. The slide has a saw-cut which allows it to be clamped to the stem, to prevent it from jarring down during firing. A clamping nut is provided for this purpose.

The Mark II slide is interchangeable with the Mark I, and no alteration to the stem is required.

Later pattern tangent sight stems (Mark II) are provided with an aperture fixed sight formed on the left of the semi-circular flange at the rear end. It is sighted for a range of 400 yards, and is for use with the stem in a horizontal position. Guns fitted with Mark I stems are provided with an independent fixed sight.

The rear cover lock has to be lifted in order to raise the rear cover.

BREECH CASING.—INTERIOR.

Front and rear covers.—The front cover has two claws, which are engaged by the stem of the front cover catch. It also has an extractor stop, which acts in conjunction with

the extractor stop on the lock casing, in order to prevent the extractor from rising too high.

On the inside of the rear cover is the cover lock spring which actuates the rear cover lock.

The trigger bar slides inside the rear cover. This has a lug on the right, against which the trigger bar spring bears, and a projection on its rear end which engages the head of the trigger bar lever. In its front is a slot in which slides the tail of the trigger when the lock is moving backwards and forwards.

The front end of the slot engages the tail of the trigger and draws it back when the trigger bar is drawn to the rear by pressure on the thumbpiece. The trigger bar is kept in position by means of projections on the lock guides on the rear cover.

There are two ramps fixed inside the rear cover, which force the extractor down on recoil.

The rear cover and crosspiece are grooved to fit over the edges of the breech casing, so that when the "T" fixing pin is home and the cover is locked, these, with the assistance of the screwed cover joint pin, keep the casing and cover rigid.

RIGHT AND LEFT OUTSIDE PLATES.

On the inside of both plates are cams, which control the path of the extractor. These cams have a step cut in each on the rear sloping surface. These steps are for the purpose of preventing the lock from going forward, if, owing to insufficient recoil, the recoiling portions do not come back far enough to allow the extractor to drop. They are also the means of hanging the lock.

Rear crosspiece.—Inside the rear crosspiece is the trigger bar lever, which, pivoting on the "T" fixing pin, draws back the trigger bar.

The trigger bar lever is actuated by pressure on the thumbpiece and returned to its rest position by the safety catch spring when pressure is released.

RECOILING PORTIONS.

Muzzle cup.—The muzzle cup is bored at the rear end to fit on to the end of the barrel. This end of the cup is split and is arranged to receive a transverse clamping screw for fixing the cup rigidly to the barrel.

A Mark II muzzle cup which has been approved and is being issued is attached to the barrel by a screwed thread. Mark II cups cannot be used on Mark I barrels, and *vice versa*.

Barrel.—The barrel is browned to prevent rust, and has a groove round it near the muzzle for the clamping screw of the muzzle cup, a flat being cut in front of the groove to allow the cup to be assembled. At the rear end of the barrel there is a cannellure, filled with asbestos packing, which prevents the escape of water. At the breech end it is formed with a square block, from which project two studs (one at each side), called the barrel trunnions. By means of these trunnions the barrel is connected to the side-plates.

The front of the barrel block bears against the face of the barrel bearing in the barrel casing.

Barrels for the Mark II muzzle cup have a screwed thread at the muzzle end. They have "Mark II" stamped on the upper and lower surfaces of the barrel block.

The interior of the barrel is rifled, and has five grooves and lands with a left-handed twist.

In front of the cartridge chamber is the lead, which forms a funnel to guide the bullet into the rifling.

Side-plates.—The side-plates are both bored to receive the barrel trunnions, and have guides along which the flanges of the lock move. These guides have two interruptions on each side, to enable the lock to be lifted out. In addition, each side-plate has a bearing through which the crank passes, thus connecting the latter with the barrel. These bearings move in slots in the breech casing.

Both side-plates are fitted with side-plate springs, to ensure that the horns of the extractor do not drop below the solid cams during the backward movement of the lock, when there are no cartridges on the extractor.

There are extensions for the exclusion of dust, grit, &c., at the rear end of both side-plates.

The left side-plate is prolonged to the front, and has a recess in which the bottom lever of the feed block engages.

Crank.—The crank is fitted with a connecting rod, which is free to rotate on the crank pin. Outside the breech casing on the right it has a curved handle, the upper surface of which bears on the roller when the gun is firing. On the left it is fitted with a fuzee, to which is attached a chain of two links, by means of which it is connected to the fuzee spring. The fuzee is attached to the crankshaft by means of a stem and lugs, and is easily removed.

Connecting-rod.—The connecting-rod is attached to the crank by means of an axis pin called the crank pin, and is arranged to take the lock by means of an interrupted flange, thereby connecting the crank and lock. It has an adjusting nut, and washers are provided which enable its length to be increased. By this means the space between the extractor and the barrel can be adjusted, thus preventing separations.

The lock.—The lock is attached to the connecting-rod by the side lever head, and when in the firing position closes the breech. In this position it is held by the side levers, the crank (fixed in bearings in the side-plates) and the connecting-rod. The connecting-rod and side lever head are slightly below the horizontal to prevent the breech from being opened at the moment of firing. The lock has a reciprocating motion communicated to it by the rotation of the crank, and is kept in position during its backward and forward movements by means of flanges working along guides on the side-plates, and by the guides on the underside of the rear cover.

The lock casing has a piece riveted inside at the top of the front face which acts as a guide for the lock spring when the lock is being assembled, and also forms a seating for the spring. Its sides are drilled for the various axis pins, and on its underside it has flanges which work on the guides on the side-plates. The lower of these flanges has interrupted portions to agree with those in the guides and allow the lock to be removed from the gun.

The lock casing contains the firing pin, the tumbler and axis pin, the trigger and axis pin, the sear and spring and the lock-spring.

The extractor is attached to the front end of the lock by guide ribs, upon which it slides, and contains the gib, the gib spring and cover.

The projections on the gib, together with the cartridge grooves, form recesses which retain the cartridge in position.

The extractor is moved upwards by means of the side and extractor levers. The upward and downward movements of the extractor are regulated by guide ribs and stops, the top stop on the face of the lock casing acting in conjunction with the stop on the underside of the front cover limits the

upward travel of the extractor, while the bottom stops formed on the sides of the lock casing limit its downward travel; the extractor levers bear on them.

Feed block.—The feed block is of steel (or gunmetal) and fits under the front cover into a recess cut in the breech casing. It is provided with a slide, to which are attached two pawls with spring for the purpose of moving the cartridges from right to left. These pawls are made with finger-pieces which can be pressed down together to release the pawls from the belt. The slide has a transverse motion given to it by means of two levers which are fitted together. The top lever has a stud which engages a slot on the slide, and on the bottom lever is a stud which engages in the recess in the prolongation of the left side-plate. By this means the slide is connected with the recoiling portions. The feed block has also two stationary bottom pawls (actuated by a spring), which are connected by a finger-piece, and which engage under the next cartridge and prevent the belt from slipping backwards during firing. The feed block is provided with guides fitted above and below in the cartridge way, which ensure the cartridges coming to the exact position where they can be gripped by the extractor. The cartridges are prevented from being pushed too far through to the left by means of the cartridge and bullet stops, which are inside the feed block.

303-INCH VICKERS GUN.

Explanation of Plates I to VIII.

The same numbers are used for the parts to which they refer in all the plates.

1. Casing, barrel.
2. Tube, steam.
3. Bracket, foresight.
4. Gland.
5. Casing, breech.
6. Cover, front.
7. Cover, rear.
8. Sight, tangent.
9. Bar, trigger.
10. Lock, rear cover.
11. Rear crosspiece.
12. Lever, firing.
13. Lever, trigger bar.
14. Catch, safety.
15. } Plugs, screwed.
16. } Protector, screwed, condenser boss.
17. Plug, cork.
18. Guide, front, barrel bearing.
19. Bracket, crosshead.
20. Cams, right and left.
21. Steps of cams, right and left.
22. Catch, front cover.
23. Pin, screwed joint cover.
24. Pin-T, fixing, rear crosspiece.
25. Pin, screwed, fixing, crank handle.
26. Slides, right and left.
27. Roller.
28. Pin, screwed, joint, rear crosspiece.
29. Bracket, check lever.
30. Lever, check.
31. Bracket, elevating joint.
32. Stop, elevating.
33. Plate, bottom, breech casing.
34. Shutter, sliding.
35. Hooks of front cover catch.
36. Hole for keeper pin, front cover catch.
37. Lever of catch, front cover.
38. Grooves in front cover catch to clear "36."
39. Plunger, front cover catch.
40. Bridge, rear cover.
41. Spring tangent sight.
42. } Piston " "
43. Grooves in rear cover for ribs on "5."
44. Ramps, rear cover.
45. Spring, rear cover lock.
46. Spring, trigger bar.
47. Lug on trigger bar for "46."
48. Base of tangent sight stem.
49. Hooks of rear cover lock.
50. Lug on rear cover lock for "45."
51. Slot in trigger bar for "86."
52. Lug on trigger bar for "13."
53. } Thumbpiece, sliding shutter catch.
54. } Plunger, sliding shutter catch.
55. Arms of rear-crosspiece.
56. Handles, traversing.
57. Pawl, firing lever.
58. Spring, safety catch, with piston.

60. Pin, screwed axis, safety catch.
- 60a. Finger grips, safety catch.
61. Pin, screwed, axis, firing lever.
62. } Thumbpiece, firing lever.
63. } Pin, keeper, check lever.
64. Piston and spring, check lever
65. Housing for "65."
66. Barrel.
67. Casing, lock.
68. Plate, side, right or left.
69. Crank.
70. Handle, crank.
- 71a. Tail of crank handle.
- 71b. Knob of crank handle.
72. Rod, connecting.
- 72a. Stem of connecting rod.
73. Fuzee.
- 73a. Chain, fuzee.
74. Spring, fuzee.
- 74a. Hook, fuzee spring.
75. Box, fuzee spring.
- 75a. Screw, adjusting, fuzee spring.
76. Block, feed.
77. Cannelure in "67" for asbestos packing.
78. Trunnion block, barrel.
79. Lock.
80. Levers, side (pair).
81. Sockets of side lever for "72a."
82. Extractor.
83. Gib.
84. Spring, gib.
85. Cover, gib spring.
86. Trigger.
87. Lever, extractor, right.
88. Tumbler.
89. Spring, lock.
90. Pin, firing.
91. Sear.
92. Spring, sear.
93. Flanges of lock casing.
94. Interruptions in flanges of lock casing.
95. Slots in lock casing for "99."
96. Bearings on lock casing for "80."
97. Upper extractor stop of lock casing.
98. Bent of extractor lever for "80."
99. Lugs on side levers for "95."
100. Bush, axis, side levers.
101. Pin, split, keeper, bush, axis, side levers.
102. Horns of extractor.
- 102a. Grooves in extractor for "79."
103. Shoulders of extractor for "87."
104. Grooves in extractor for side plate springs.
105. Hole in extractor for "90."
106. Recess in extractor for "83."
107. Pin, axis, trigger.
108. Pin, axis, tumbler.
109. Key of pin, axis, tumbler.
110. Projection on firing pin for "89."
111. Lever, top, feed block.
112. Lever, bottom, feed block.
113. Pins, split, fixing, top and bottom levers, feed block.
114. Stud of top lever for feed block slide.
- 114a. Slide, feed block.
115. Pawl, top, feed block, rear.
- 115a. Thumb grips of "115" and "116."
116. Pawl, top, feed block, front.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 117. Spring, top paws, feed block. | 123. Casing, outer, muzzle attachment. |
| 118. Paws, bottom, feed block pair). | 124. Cone, front, muzzle attachment, Mark I. |
| 119 Pin, axis, bottom pawl, feed block. | 125. Gland, muzzle attachment. |
| 120. Finger plate of bottom paws, feed block. | 126. Strew, clamping, cup, muzzle attachment. |
| 121. Spring, bottom paws, feed block. | 127. Disc, muzzle attachment. |
| 122. Cup, muzzle attachment. | 128. Vent, bullet, muzzle attachment. |

MOUNTING, TRIPOD, .303-INCH MAXIM GUN, MARK IV.

(Plates X and XI.)

The mounting consists principally of a crosshead (*a*), elevating gear (*b*), and socket (*c*), mounted on three legs.

It is constructed to give 13 degrees elevation and 25 degrees depression at heights varying from 14½ inches* to 30 inches from the axis of the gun to the ground. By arranging the position of the rear and front legs respectively, elevation may be given up to about 43 degrees and depression to 55 degrees. An all round traverse can be obtained.

The crosshead (*a*), to which the gun is pivoted, is formed with a pivot to fit into the socket (*c*) and an arm (*d*) which carries the elevating gear (*b*).

In cases where it is found that, owing to the position of the web of the crosshead, the Vickers gun cannot be brought down so that the stop on the gun will rest on the web without bringing the fusee spring box of the gun in contact with the curved arm of the crosshead, a stop piece will be riveted to the front of the internal crossweb by an armourer or an

* See Plate XI.

artificer in accordance with the drawing in para. 17289, War Office, L. of C.

The elevating gear, which is actuated by a handwheel (*v*), consists of an inner and outer screw (right and left-handed) and a nut working within a tumbler (*g*). The tumbler is split and provided with a jamming bolt (*h*), by which the wear may be taken up. A chain secures the inner screw to the crosshead to prevent loss while travelling.

The socket (*c*) is bored to receive the crosshead and is provided with three lugs (*n*), to which the legs are hinged; a jamming block and screw with handle (*f*) is attached to the front to secure the crosshead in any desired angle of traverse the block works in a recess in the upper portion of the crosshead and prevents it from rising. Both faces of the rear lug and one face of each front lug are fitted with clutch plates having radial serrations to correspond with similar serrations on the faces of the leg joints. Joint studs with disc spring and jamming handle (*s*) are fixed to the front lugs, by which the legs are securely clamped to the socket in the required position.

The legs (*j*, *k*) are of tubular steel, the lower ends being fitted with shoes (*m*) to steady the mounting on the ground, and the upper ends having a joint with radial serrations mentioned above. The rear leg is provided with a joint pin with nut and jamming handle (*t*).

On a portion of the periphery of the leg joints numbers are stamped at regular intervals, so that, when read in conjunction with a zero mark, the relative position of the legs to their normal position may be readily seen.

A strap is fixed to the rear leg to secure the three legs during transport.

When firing, the ammunition box is placed on the ground on the right side of the gun, or, alternatively, is placed in the "carrier, ammunition, belt box." The carrier is a steel frame, and is fitted with three hangers by which it is attached in position to the crosshead on the right side.

Weight of mounting ... 48 lbs.

The Vickers gun can be fired from service mountings.

NOTE.—A Direction Dial and an Elevation Dial are now fitted to the tripod, and together weigh about 4 lbs.

MOUNTINGS, TRIPOD, 303-INCH MAXIM GUN, MARK IV.

LIST OF COMPONENT PARTS, ETC.

DESIGNATION.	DETAILS.	Number.
COMPONENTS.		
Bolt, jamming elevating gear ...	steel ...	1
Bush, handwheel, elevating ...	M.B., with nut and steel feather ...	1
Chain elevating screw, Mark IV,		
Tripod mounting ...	steel ...	1
Crosshead ...	M.B. (also pivot) with keep pin ...	1
Handles, jamming, front leg ...	steel ...	2
Legs {	front, left ...	1
	front, right ...	1
	rear ...	1
Nuts {	elevating ...	1
	jamming rear leg ...	1
	screw, jamming pivot ...	1

MOUNTINGS, TRIPOD, 303-INCH MAXIM GUN, MARK IV—*continued.*

DESIGNATION.	DETAILS.	Number.
COMPONENTS— <i>continued.</i>		
Pins, joint {	elevating gear ...	1
	crosshead ...	1
Pins {	joint, rear leg ...	2
	tumbler ...	1
Plates, inscription ...	G.M., with screws ...	1
Screws {	elevating, No. 22 ...	1
	clamp checking traverse ...	1
Socket ...	steel, with handle, M.B. nut and jamming block ...	1
Straps, securing 1-inch x 36-inches ...	M.B., with steel clutch plates (for pivot of crosshead) ...	1
	leather (for housing legs) ...	2
Studs, joint, front legs ...	steel, with nut and keep pin ...	1
Tumbler, elevating gear ...	M.B., with nut ...	1
Wheel, hand elevating ...	M.B. ...	1
STORES ISSUED AS PART OF MOUNTING.		
Holder, joint pins ...	leather, with attachment straps ...	1

MOUNTINGS, TRIPOD, AUXILIARY, 303-INCH MACHINE GUN, MARKS I AND II.

This auxiliary mounting which is not intended to replace the Mark IV tripod, is for use as an alternative to it, and will in future be issued on the scale of 1 per machine gun, to cavalry and infantry units.

The mounting consists of the following parts :—

- (1) Three legs, each fitted at one end with a joint for attachment to the crosshead pivot, and at a short distance from the opposite end with a shoe which gives stability to the mounting when firing. The pivot receives the trunnion block to which the saddle of the rear gun band is connected by trunnion screws. The under side of the bracket is so formed that by the action of a spring plunger which passes through the centre of the pivot, it admits of the legs being folded down in one direction, but held rigidly in the opposite direction.

A hinged clip—provided with a clamping screw and wing nut—with saddle, completes the rear gun band to which is secured a leather lining for gripping the gun.

- (2) The front gun band which is of steel (leather lined), is formed with two free ends (leather covered); these ends clip the legs of mounting when folded down. It is provided with a clamping screw and wing nut for securing it to the barrel casing of the gun in such a position that the legs of the mounting, when folded up, shall protrude about 1-inch beyond the spring clip.

- (3) Two leather straps are provided for transporting the gun with the mounting.

Lubricating Holes.

2 in bracket arms for elevating.

2 in trunnion block for traversing.

Weight of mounting about ... 8 lbs.

A certain number of auxiliary tripod mountings, with the front gun band differing from that on the above-mentioned mounting, have been issued to the Service. These will be known as Mark I.

For replacement purposes a front gun band of a Mark II mounting could be issued for use with a Mark I mounting; interchangeability is not affected.

BELTS AND BELT BOXES.

The gun is supplied with cartridges from a belt (to hold 250 rounds), which passes from right to left through the feed block. This belt is formed by two pieces of webbing connected together by eyelets and brass strips of two lengths, the projecting strips showing how far the cartridge should be inserted. The belt is made thick at the edge next the bullets by being folded over a piece of cord, so that the cartridges may be kept level in passing through the feed block and lie evenly in the ammunition belt boxes.

There are two types of belt boxes, one wooden and the other metal, each of which holds one belt. The lid of the former is secured by a spring catch, and the lid of the latter by a quick release strap.

CASE, .303-INCH VICKERS GUN, MARK II.

The case is used to convey the gun in the G.S. limbered wagon on the line of march; it is made of leather with a lid secured by three quick release straps, and is fitted to hold the stores detailed below :—

To contain :—

Gun	1
Gun barrel	1
Rod, cleaning... ..	1
Weight	28 lbs. (approximately)

The case differs from the previous Mark in being made longer in order to take the muzzle attachment, the wood chocks are differently arranged to prevent injury to the gun and the position of the cleaning rod is arranged so that the handle is on the right-hand side.

The Mark I case when modified so that the gun with muzzle attachment can be carried, will be designated Mark I*.

CHEST, VICKERS OR LEWIS, .303-INCH GUNS, MARK II.

The chest is issued as an alternative to the leather case before described. It is made of wood. The lid is hinged, and is fastened with two hasps and turnbuckles. A rope handle is attached to each end of the chest by a cleat. The chock, which is provided for the muzzle end of the gun, is made reversible in order to meet the difference in size of the barrel casing of the Vickers gun and the radiator casing of the Lewis gun respectively. A small number of chests of Mark I pattern have been made. These differ only in the depth, which is $\frac{1}{4}$ inch greater.

The chests take the contents for the Vickers gun as shown for the case.

The weight, empty, is about 38 lbs.

Note.—When a G.S. limbered wagon has fittings to take the gun, the case and chests will be required only for transit purposes to and from store. The chest is preferable for this latter service.

CASE, SPARE GUN BARREL AND CLEANING ROD, .303-INCH M.G., MARK II.

The case is a leather tube 34.5 inches long by 1.6 inch diameter (internal measurements) pointed at one end, and

fitted with a leather cap and strap at the other. The case is also provided with two straps with buckles for securing it to the tripod hanger of .303-inch M.G., packsaddlery.

SIGHT, FIXED.

Description.—A certain number of fixed sights have been provided for use with guns supplied with tangent sight stems of Mark I pattern, which, unlike the Mark II pattern, are not fitted with a fixed sight, on the foot of stem, in order that these guns also may be used at short ranges without raising the tangent sight stem.

There are two patterns of fixed sight, known as Mark I and Mark II. The Mark I is arranged to slide on to the end of the tangent sight stem, and to be fixed by the upper graduated plate screw, one of the latter being supplied with each sight in addition to the existing screw in the stem. Some of the Mark I sights have a "U" cut in the bar, and some have a "V." The former are marked "400 yards" and with the letter "V," and the latter "Vickers battle-sight, 400 yards." The Mark II sight has an aperture, and is arranged to assemble under the arch of the tangent sight bridge on the rear cover of the gun, in cases where there are a series of arches in the second from the tangent sight joint. It is fixed in position by a nut, which, engaging a short screwed stem on the sight, is screwed up to the arch, thus causing the base of the sight to be pressed firmly down on to the cover. This sight is marked "400 yards" and "Gun, Vickers, .303-inch."

SIGHTS, LUMINOUS.

Description.—These sights are provided for use in night firing. The foresight consists of a small steel block

which has a vertical blade in which is fixed, by means of a brass plate, a glass tube containing radio-active material. A spring clip is affixed to each side of the block. The foresight is assembled to the outside of the foresight protecting wings on the gun by being sprung on from the end which faces the breech of the gun. The backsight consists of a small steel block, which has a rectangular aperture on each side of which is fixed horizontally, by means of a brass plate, a glass tube of radio-active material. Affixed to the block is a spring clip formed for engagement with the tangent sight slide on the gun. The backsight is assembled to the gun by being sprung on to the blade on the left side of the tangent sight slide, in which the "U" is cut.

CONDENSER, STEAM.

Description.—The steam condenser is provided in order that the escaping steam, which is produced after about 600 rounds rapid fire, may be made as invisible as possible.

It consists of (1) a 6-ft. length of flexible metallic tubing on one end of which a ferrule is soldered; (2) a union nut which is arranged to engage with the ferrule and to screw on to the condenser boss on the barrel casing of the gun, and thus connect up the steam escape hole with the tubing; (3) a waterproof canvas bag, provided with a carrying strap, and a small additional strap for closing its mouth.

When required for use the joint end of the tubing is assembled to the gun, whilst its free end with any form of rag wound tightly around it, leaving the opening clear, is inserted into the mouth of the bag; the latter, having been about half filled with water, is then closed over the wound end and placed in the desired position.

Note.—The tubing should be disconnected from the gun

when not required for use and when possible during transit in order to prevent injury.

HYPOSCOPE AND HANDLES, AUXILIARY.*

Description.—Hyposcopes and auxiliary handles are provided in order that the gun may be handled, and the sights and objective seen from a level below that of the gun level, the gunner thereby being less exposed to the fire of the enemy.

Hyposcopes of earlier design were combined with auxiliary handles. Of these there were two patterns: (1) of wooden box design suitable for both Maxim and Vickers guns (by adjustment) and fitted with ordinary rectangular plate glass mirrors. It was clamped to the handles of the rear crosspiece of the gun and was provided with an independent hand lever for operating the safety catch and firing lever of the gun. This pattern is known as "Hyposcope, Maxim and Vickers .303-inch guns, Mark I"; (2) of metal consisting of auxiliary handles with firing mechanism and adjustable periscope fitted with oval patent glass mirrors with caps, &c. The auxiliary handles are made of cycle tubing, and the ends of each of the tubes forming the handles are fitted with ordinary cycle grips. Its designation is "Hyposcope, Vickers .303-inch gun, Mark I." The auxiliary handles of this hyposcope are used with the later patterns of hyposcope referred to subsequently.

Hyposcopes of later design are prismatic (Youtlen's Patent). There are two patterns for the Vickers gun known as "Hyposcope, Vickers .303-inch gun, Mark II," and "Hypo-

* Hyposcopes are not now issued, and the descriptions are published for record purposes.

scope, Maxim and Vickers .303-inch guns, Mark II," respectively. The glass prism with its fittings is common to both marks, the only difference being in the method of attachment to the gun.

The prism is fitted in a metal casing, and to the casing is screwed a bracket (or collar) with clamp screw.

The special features of the Vickers pattern Mark II consist of a fixed stem which projects vertically from the gun bracket to carry the prism. The gun bracket is arranged to clamp to the upper arm of the left handle of the rear crosspiece, the lower half of the bracket being hinged to the upper portion, and secured by means of a clamping screw which is pivoted and retained in the lower half of the bracket.

The Maxim and Vickers Mark II pattern, which has been approved for future supply, is suitable for both Maxim and Vickers gun.

It is in the form of a plate which bridges the handles of the rear crosspiece and is secured by means of the existing milled heads. The plate is slotted in order that it may be assembled without removing the milled heads. On the plate is formed a joint for the stem, the latter being hinged in the joint and positioned vertically or horizontally, as required, by a flat spring screwed to the upper surface of the plate and acting upon the lower end of the stem. When it is necessary to open the rear cover of the gun with the hyposcope assembled, the stem with prism can be swung to the left out of the way.

Auxiliary handles, Vickers .303-inch gun, are provided for use with these patterns of hyposcope. They are identical with the handles of the same description which form part of the Mark I hyposcope.

SEQUENCE OF TEACHING.

- (1) Name of gun.
- (2) Weight of gun, without and with water.
- (3) Forces working the gun.
- (4) Rate of fire.
- (5) The gun consists of non-recoiling and recoiling portions.*
- (6) The names of the chief parts which comprise the two portions of the gun.

Non-Recoiling Portions.

Barrel Casing.

EXPLAIN

Exterior.

- (1) That it is made of steel.
- (2) Corrugations and reasons for these.
- (3) The outer casing of the muzzle attachment.
- (4) Gland and the screwed hole for packing.
- (5) End of the steam tube, and importance of the keeper screw.
- (6) Foresight, why set $\frac{1}{8}$ inch to the left of the axis of the bore; how fitted; how protected.
- (7) Steam escape hole—how closed; reason for the threads; how the threads are protected.
- (8) Emptying hole—how closed.
- (9) Filling hole—why set slightly to the right.
- (10) Barrel bearing.
- (11) Barrel rests.
- (12) Seating for ejection.
- (13) Crosshead bracket.

* The Instructor should separate for the benefit of the squad.

Interior.

- (1) Water capacity when filled.
- (2) When the water will boil, and the evaporation.
- (3) Interior tinned to prevent rust.
- (4) Gunmetal guide. The reason for it; how fixed.
- (5) Steam tube. Explain by diagrams (or remove if using a stripping gun).

*Breech Casing.**Riveted to Barrel Casing.**Exterior.*—Right outside plate.

- (1) Cut away portion for the feed block.
- (2) Check lever—how fitted.
- (3) Slot for the crank bearings.
- (4) Slide for partially closing the slot.
- (5) Roller—how fitted.
- (6) Hole for the "T" fixing pin.

Left outside plate.

- (1) Studs for the fuze spring box.
- (2) Fuze spring box and spring. How the spring is attached to the adjusting screw and fuze chain, and how the tension is altered.
- (3) Front cover catch.
- (4) Slot for crank bearings.
- (5) Slide for partially closing the slot.
- (6) Hole for the "T" fixing pin.
- (7) Elevating stop.

Bottom plate.

- (1) Bottom plate.
- (2) Sliding shutter.
- (3) Sliding shutter catch.
- (4) Elevating bracket.

Rear crosspiece.

- (1) How fixed and secured by the "T" fixing pin.
- (2) Handles, containing oil and brushes.
- (3) Safety catch.
- (4) Firing lever.

Front cover.

How secured by the hinge pin.

Rear cover.

- (1) How secured by the hinge pin.
- (2) Bridge for the tangent sight.
- (3) Tangent sight—how secured.
- (4) Graduated plate and keeper screw.
- (5) Slide and its components. Contents of the milled head box when stripping.
- (6) Rear cover lock.

Interior.—Front cover.

- (1) How the claws are engaged by the front cover catch.
- (2) Extractor stop and the reason for it.

Rear cover.

- (1) Cover lock spring.
- (2) Trigger bar.
- (3) Trigger bar spring.
- (4) Lock guides.
- (5) Ramps.
- (6) Reason for the grooves on the outer edges.

Right and left outside plates.—Cams; steps.*Rear crosspiece.*—Trigger bar lever—how actuated.*Bottom plate.*—Nil.

*Recoiling Portions.**Muzzle cup.*

- (1) Mark I.
- (2) Mark II.

Barrel.

- (1) Why browned.
- (2) Muzzle, flat portion and groove (Mark I).
- (3) Muzzle—screwed thread (Mark II).
- (4) Cannelure for asbestos packing.
- (5) Barrel block and trunnions.
- (6) Interior of barrel.

Right and left crank, &c.

- (1) Holes for the trunnions.
- (2) Lock guides and interruptions.
- (3) Crank bearings.
- (4) Side-plate springs.
- (5) Extension for prevention of dust, grit, &c.
- (6) Prolongation of the left side-plate.
- (7) Crank.
- (8) Crank handle.
- (9) Fuzee and chain.
- (10) Crankshaft.
- (11) Fuzee stem and lugs.
- (12) Connecting-rod.
- (13) Crank pin.
- (14) Interrupted flange.
- (15) Adjusting nut and washer.

Lock.

- (1) Side lever head, split pin and axis bush.
- (2) Side levers.
- (3) Extractor levers and extractor.

- (4) Tumbler axis pin.
- (5) Tumbler.
- (6) Trigger axis pin.
- (7) Trigger.
- (8) Lock spring.
- (9) Firing pin.
- (10) Sear and spring.
- (11) Lock casing.
- (12) Gib, gib spring and cover.

Feed block.

- (1) Slide and how worked by levers.
- (2) Top pawls and difference between them, with reason.
- (3) Top pawl spring.
- (4) How the top and bottom levers are connected.
- (5) Bottom lever and reason of stud.
- (6) Bottom pawls.
- (7) Bottom pawls spring.
- (8) Cartridge guides.
- (9) Cartridge and bullet stops.

Tripod, Mark IV.

(1) Name and weight.
Mounting, tripod, .303-inch Maxim gun, 48 lbs. ; with dials 52 lbs.

- (2) Chief parts—
 - (a) Crosshead.
 - (b) Elevating gear.
 - (c) Socket.
 - (d) Legs.
- (3) Limits of elevation and depression.
- (4) All round traverse.

Crosshead.

- (1) Pivot to fit into the socket.
- (2) Arm which carries the elevating gear.

Elevating gear.

- (1) Worked by a handwheel, to which is fitted an elevating dial.
- (2) Inner and outer screws, right and left-handed.
- (3) Internally screwed sleeve, and locking nut.
- (4) Tumbler—how provided with a jamming bolt.
- (5) Chain connection to the crosshead.

Socket.

- (1) Bored to receive the pivot of the crosshead.
- (2) Three lugs to receive the legs.
- (3) Jamming block and screw, with handles.

Legs.

- (1) Serrations to correspond with similar serrations on lugs.
- (2) Made of tubular steel, feet and joints solid.
- (3) Numbers placed on the leg joints.
- (4) Clutch plates and jamming handles.
- (5) Strap to secure legs during transport.

*Auxiliary mounting.**Belts and boxes, belt.*

Cases.—•303-inch Vickers gun.

Chest.—Vickers or Lewis, •303-inch guns, Mark II.

Case.—Spare gun barrel and cleaning rod.

Sight.—Fixed.

Sights.—Luminous.

Condenser.—Steam.

Hyposcopes.

SECTION IV.—MECHANISM.

It is not alone sufficient for a high standard of knowledge of mechanism to be reached; it must also be maintained, and therefore instruction should be continuous throughout the year, for it is easily forgotten if neglected.

A *theoretical knowledge* of the mechanism is not sufficient. Instruction must be so thorough and practical as to ensure that all mechanical operations are performed correctly from force of habit, so that they will be carried out instinctively in moments of excitement.

Note.—(1) A belt and dummy cartridges will invariably be used for purposes of instruction.

(2) A service lock must always be in the gun, when firing either ball or blank ammunition. For instructional purposes, when ammunition is not being fired, the D.P. instructional lock should be used in the gun whenever possible.

The following is the correct sequence in which instruction in mechanism should be given. Each stage should be thoroughly understood before proceeding to the next:—

- (1) To load.
- (2) To fire.
- (3) To unload.
- (4) Action on recoil.
- (5) First action in the feed block.
- (6) Backward rotation of the crank.
- (7) Second action in the feed block.
- (8) Backward movement of the lock.
- (9) Cocking action of the lock.
- (10) Action of the fuze spring.
- (11) Forward rotation of the crank.
- (12) Firing action—first shot.

(13) Firing action—subsequent shots.

(14) Action inside lock when pressure on thumbpiece is released.

Kit required.

- (1) Gun (with D.P. lock if available) and tripod.
- (2) Belt in belt box.
- (3) Dummy cartridges.
- (4) Empty case (dummy without bullet).
- (5) Spare lock and spare feed block.
- (6) Brass or skeleton lock.
- (7) Instructional diagram.

Note.—The gun must be correctly set up.

1. TO LOAD.

(a) Pass the tag end of the belt through the feed block from the right side.

(b) With the right hand pull the crank handle on to the roller.

(c) With the left hand pull the belt through to the left front, as far as it will go.

(d) Let go the crank handle. The first cartridge will then be gripped by the extractor. Repeat the above, and, when this has been done, the first cartridge will be in the chamber, and another gripped by the upper part of the extractor. The gun is then ready for firing.

Note.—The crank handle is pulled on to the roller in order to withdraw the lock. This is necessary in order to allow the cartridge to be pulled into position in the feed block, to allow the extractor to drop, and to cock the lock.

Method of Instruction.

Demonstration.—Load.

Explanation—

- (1) Tag of belt.
- (2) Crank handle pulled on to roller.
- (3) Belt pulled slightly to the left front.
- (4) Crank handle released.
- (5) Repetition of above.
- (6) Cartridge in chamber.
- (7) Cartridge gripped by extractor.
- (8) Gun ready for firing.

Imitation.

Interrogation.

2. TO FIRE.

Raise the safety catch and press the thumbpiece of the firing lever, when the gun will fire automatically until—

- (a) Pressure is released; or
- (b) Ammunition in the belt is expended.

In the case of (a) the lock will be home, and the extractor will be gripping a live cartridge in the feed block, and a live cartridge in the chamber. In the case of (b) the extractor will be clear.

Method of Instruction.

To set up the gun—load.

Demonstration.—Press thumbpiece.

Explanation—

- (1) Safety catch raised.
- (2) Thumbpiece pressed.

- (3) Rounds on extractor when pressure released.
- (4) No rounds on extractor when belt finished.

Imitation.

Interrogation.

3. TO UNLOAD.

To unload the gun.—Pull the crank handle on to the roller twice in succession (without pulling the belt), letting it fly forward to check lever each time. Release the top and bottom pawls, and remove the belt from the feed block then release the lock spring.

Method of Instruction.

To set up the gun—load.

Demonstration.—Unload.

Explanation—

- (1) Crank handle pulled on to roller twice.
- (2) Pawls released from belt.
- (3) Belt removed and repacked.
- (4) Thumbpiece pressed.

Imitation.

Interrogation.

4. ACTION ON RECOIL.

Suppose the gun to have just fired the first cartridge. The extractor will be gripping the second live cartridge in the feed block, and the empty case, which has just been fired, in the chamber. The explosion will cause the recoiling portions to move backward through a distance of about 1 inch thereby extending the fuze spring.

This backward movement is due partly to recoil, and partly to the effect of the muzzle attachment, which acts as follows:—The powder gases which escape through the muzzle after the exit of the bullet strike violently against the front cone, and rebound on to the front face of the muzzle cup, thereby assisting to drive the recoiling portions backwards. The gases then escape through the vents in the outer casing.

Method of Instruction.

To set up the gun.—

Remove the outer casing of the muzzle attachment.

Load the gun with empty case in the chamber and a dummy round in the feed block. Remove the fuze spring and box, and raise the rear cover.

Demonstration.—Push back recoiling portions from the front.

Explanation—

- (1) Explosion.
- (2) Recoiling portions driven back one inch.
- (3) Fuze spring extended.
- (4) Action of gases in muzzle attachment.

Imitation.

Interrogation.

5. FIRST ACTION IN THE FEED BLOCK.

As the recoiling portions travel backwards, the recess in the prolongation of the left side-plate carries with it the stud on the bottom lever of the feed block. The bottom lever, acting on the top lever, causes the slide and the top pawls to move to the right, enabling the top pawls to engage behind the cartridge, already held in position by the bottom pawls.

Method of Instruction.

To set up the gun.—Remove the outer casing of the muzzle attachment. Load the gun with an empty case in the chamber and a dummy round in the feed block. Remove the fuze spring and box, and raise the front cover.

Demonstration.—Push back the recoiling portions from the front.

Explanation, using diagrams—

- (1) Stud on bottom lever.
- (2) Recess in prolongation of left side-plate.
- (3) Bottom lever acting on top lever.
- (4) Slide moving to right.
- (5) Top pawls engaging cartridge held by bottom pawls.

Imitation.

Interrogation.

6. BACKWARD ROTATION OF THE CRANK.

The backward movement of the recoiling portions causes the tail of the crank handle to roll on the roller, thereby rotating the crank. The rotation of the crank draws back the lock, and causes the fuze to wind the fuze chain, thus farther extending the fuze spring.

Owing to the momentum of the lock, connecting rod, crank and crank handle, the crank handle continues to roll against the roller. This rolling of the crank handle against the roller, assisted by the fuze spring, forces the whole of the recoiling portions forward again, with the exception of the lock, which continues its backward movement for a short distance, before it joins in the forward movement.

Method of Instruction.

To set up the gun.—Remove the outer casing of the muzzle attachment. Load the gun with an empty case in the chamber and a dummy round in the feed block. Remove the fuze spring and box and raise the rear cover.

Demonstration.—Backward rotation of crank by smart blow on muzzle cup.

Explanation.—

- (1) Tail of crank handle rolling on roller.
- (2) Rotation of crank—withdrawal of lock.
- (3) Fuze spring further extended.
- (4) Momentum of lock, &c., causing crank to rotate farther.
- (5) Barrel and side-plates travelling forwards.
- (6) Lock travelling backwards and then slightly forwards.
- (7) Barrel and side-plates home.

Imitation.

Interrogation.

7. SECOND ACTION IN THE FEED BLOCK.

As the recoiling portions go forward, the recess in the prolongation of the left side-plate carries with it the stud on the bottom lever of the feed block. This bottom lever acts on the top lever, which moves the slide and the top pawls to the left, the pawls thus bringing the third cartridge in the belt to a position against the cartridge and bullet stops, ready to be gripped by the extractor. The belt, as it moves to the left, slides over the bottom pawls, which are depressed as the cartridge passes over them, and rise behind the fourth cartridge, holding the belt in position and preventing it from sliding back after the third cartridge has been withdrawn by the extractor.

Method of Instruction.

To set up the gun.—Remove the outer casing of the muzzle attachment. Perform half the loading motions; remove the fusee spring and box; draw back the recoiling portions and raise the front cover.

Demonstration.—Recoiling portions forced forwards and slide moving to left.

Explanation, using diagrams.—

- (1) Recess.
- (2) Stud on bottom lever.
- (3) Bottom lever acting on top lever.
- (4) Slide moving to the left.
- (5) Top pawls engaging next cartridge.
- (6) Cartridge guides.
- (7) Cartridge and bullet stops.
- (8) Bottom pawls depressed and rising behind cartridge.

Imitation.

Interrogation.

8. BACKWARD MOVEMENT OF THE LOCK.

As the lock moves backwards, the extractor withdraws the live round from the feed block, and the empty case from the chamber. The horns of the extractor move along the surface of the cams until the cartridge is clear of the belt. When the extractor arrives at the end of the cams it is forced down by the ramps on the cover, thus bringing the cartridge drawn from the feed block into line with the chamber, and probably causing the empty case drawn from the chamber to fall off. The live cartridge is prevented

from slipping down the face of the extractor by the bottom projection of the gib. (If the empty case does not fall off, when the extractor drops, it will be forced off as described in the forward rotation of the crank.)

Method of Instruction.

To set up the gun.—Remove the outer casing of the muzzle attachment. Load the gun with an empty case in the chamber, and a dummy round in the feed block. Remove the fusee spring and box, and raise the rear cover.

Demonstration.—Lock moving backwards.

Explanation, using diagrams.—

- (1) Withdrawal of cartridge from feed block.
- (2) Withdrawal of empty case from chamber.
- (3) Horns travelling on cams.
- (4) Ramps forcing down extractor.
- (5) Empty case probably falling off.
- (6) Cartridge in line with chamber.
- (7) Cartridge held on face of extractor.

Imitation.

Interrogation.

9. COCKING ACTION OF THE LOCK.

The rotation of the crank gives an upward motion to the connecting rod and side lever head, which latter, bearing on the tail of the tumbler, rotates the tumbler on its axis, and thus forces the firing pin to the rear. The long arm of the lock spring acts on the projection of the firing pin, while the short arm bears against the nose of the trigger; consequently the withdrawal of the firing pin compresses

the lock spring. As the tumbler rotates, the nose of the trigger is forced by the short arm of the lock spring over the bent of the tumbler, and the continued rotation of the tumbler forces the firing pin still further back, until the bent of the sear (which is actuated by the sear spring) is forced into the bent of the firing pin and retains it. The firing pin is thus prevented from flying forward.

Method of Instruction.

To set up the gun.—Remove the outer casing of the muzzle attachment. Load the gun with an empty case in the chamber and a dummy round in the feed block. Press the thumbpiece and raise the rear cover.

Demonstration with gun and with brass lock.

Explanation, using brass lock, diagrams or spare parts.—

- (1) Upward movement of side lever head.
- (2) Rotation of tumbler.
- (3) Firing pin withdrawn.
- (4) Compression of lock spring.
- (5) Nose of trigger and bent of tumbler.
- (6) Bents of sear and firing pin.

Imitation.

Interrogation.

10. ACTION OF THE FUZEE SPRING.

When the force of the explosion is expended, the fuzee spring takes command, and unwinding the fuzee chain from the fuzee gives a rotary movement to the crank. This imparts a forward and downward action to the connecting rod and side lever head, thereby causing the lock to continue its forward movement.

Method of Instruction.

To set up the gun.—Perform half the loading motions; disengage the fuzee spring and raise the rear cover; draw back the crank handle and pull the belt.

Demonstration, with fuzee spring attached to fuzee and with box held close to gun.

Explanation.—

- (1) Connection of fuzee spring and chain to crank.
- (2) Forward and downward movement of connecting rod and side lever head.
- (3) Lock forced to continue forward movement.

Imitation.

Interrogation.

11. FORWARD ROTATION OF THE CRANK.

As the lock travels forward, the extractor places the live round in the chamber, and is moved upwards by the side levers acting on the extractor levers. The bottom projection of the gib slides over the base of the live cartridge in the chamber and the top projection of the gib slides over the base of the cartridge which has been moved up into position in the feed block. The firing pin hole is thus brought opposite the cap. As the extractor rises, the empty case, if it has not already fallen off, will be forced off by the seating for ejection.

As soon as the extractor reaches its highest position, the side-plate springs engage in grooves in its sides. This

prevents the horns from falling and fouling the front end of the solid cams in the breech casing at the commencement of the backward movement. Then the further movement of the connecting rod and side lever head causes the lock to be forced slightly farther forward, and the breech is then closed. During this movement, the steps on the side levers travel over the bents on the extractor levers.

Method of Instruction.

To set up the gun.—Perform half the loading motions; remove the fuze spring and box; pull the crank handle on to the roller; pull the belt and raise the rear cover.

Demonstration.—With fuze spring attached to fuze crank handle eased forward on to the check lever.

Explanation, using spare lock.—

- (1) Cartridge in line with chamber.
- (2) Side levers acting on extractor levers.
- (3) Raising of extractor.
- (4) Action of seating for ejection.
- (5) Bottom projection of gib passing over base of cartridge in chamber.
- (6) Firing pin hole opposite pin.
- (7) Cartridge gripped in feed block.
- (8) Side-plate springs.
- (9) Further downward movement of connecting rod and side lever head.
- (10) Breech closed.

Imitation.

Interrogation.

12. FIRING ACTION.

For the first shot.—As the side lever head comes slightly below the horizontal, it depresses the sear, thereby disengaging it from the firing pin, which then moves slightly forward until the bent of the tumbler engages the nose of the trigger. If the safety catch is raised and the thumbpiece on the firing lever pressed, the pawl near the bottom of the firing lever pushes forward the bottom of the trigger bar lever. This, being pivoted in the centre, causes the top to come to the rear, engaging a projection on the trigger bar and drawing it to the rear. As the trigger bar is drawn backwards, the front end of the slot engages and draws back with it the tail of the trigger, thereby releasing the nose of the trigger from the bent of the tumbler. The long arm of the lock spring then propels the firing pin on to the cap, and the cartridge is exploded.

Method of Instruction.

To set up the gun.—Load.

Demonstration. using gun, brass lock, diagrams and spare parts.

Explanation, using brass lock.—

- (1) Bents of sear and firing pin.
- (2) Lock spring forcing forward firing pin.
- (3) Nose of trigger and bent of tumbler.

Using gun.

- (1) Thumbpiece pressed.
- (2) Pawl on firing lever.
- (3) Action of trigger bar lever.
- (4) Tail of trigger drawn back by trigger bar.

Using brass lock.

- (1) Nose of trigger disengaged from bent of tumbler.
- (2) Action of long arm of lock spring.
- (3) Firing pin exploding charge.

Imitation.

Interrogation.

13. FIRING ACTION.

Subsequent shots.—The firer, by maintaining pressure on the thumbpiece, holds back the trigger bar; therefore, each time the lock goes forward, the front end of the slot holds back the tail of the trigger before the lock is quite home. By this means the nose of the trigger is prevented from engaging in the bent of the tumbler. When the lock is home, the side lever head depresses the sear, thus allowing the long arm of the lock spring to carry the firing pin on to the cap, and the charge is exploded.

The depression of the sear is so timed that the firing pin cannot be released until the lock is in the firing position.

Method of Instruction.

To set up the gun.—Load.

Demonstration, using gun, brass lock and diagrams.

Explanation.

- (1) Pressure kept on thumbpiece.
- (2) Trigger bar held back.
- (3) Tail of trigger held back before lock goes home.
- (4) Nose of trigger and bent of tumbler.
- (5) Depression of sear.

(6) Action of lock spring.

(7) Timing of sear.

Imitation.

Interrogation.

14. ACTION INSIDE LOCK WHEN PRESSURE ON THUMB-PIECE IS RELEASED.

On releasing pressure on the thumbpiece the trigger bar is allowed to resume its normal position. The short arm of the lock spring forces the nose of the trigger over the bent of the tumbler, so that, when the sear is depressed, the nose of the trigger engages in the bent of the tumbler, and the firing pin is unable to go forward.

Method of Instruction.

To set up the gun.—Load.

Demonstration using gun, brass lock and spare parts.

- (1) Trigger bar action on release of pressure.
- (2) Action of trigger.

Explanation.

- (1) Safety catch spring and trigger bar lever.
- (2) Trigger bar spring and trigger bar.
- (3) Depression of sear.
- (4) Firing pin held by tumbler.

Imitation.

Interrogation.

SECTION V.—CARE AND CLEANING.

- 1.—Importance of the subject.
- 2.—Responsibility.
- 3.—Kit required for teaching.
- 4.—Material supplied.
- 5.—General points.
- 6.—Guns.—
 - (a) History sheet.
 - (b) When in store.
 - (c) Wear in the bore.
 - (d) Rounds fired before barrel becomes unserviceable.
 - (e) High polish of the bore a safeguard against rust.
 - (f) Various kinds of fouling.
 - (g) Daily cleaning.
 - (h) Weekly cleaning.
 - (i) Cleaning after firing.
 - (j) Cleaning with boiling water.
 - (k) In sandy countries.
 - (l) In frosty weather.
- 7.—Tripods.
- 8.—Belts.
- 9.—Belt boxes.
- 10.—Ammunition.
- 11.—Gas.

SEQUENCE OF INSTRUCTION.

1. IMPORTANCE OF CARE AND CLEANING.

The care and cleaning of the gun is of the greatest importance, in order that the gun may fulfil to the utmost of its power any task demanded of it from a mechanical point of view, and also in order that Machine Gun Officers may have confidence that the maximum results will be obtained from their guns when firing.

2. RESPONSIBILITY.

Officers commanding units are responsible for the condition of the guns on their charge, and for instruction of their men in the methods of cleaning, so that no unnecessary wear may result.

The greatest care should be exercised in the daily handling of the gun in order to avoid damage to the various parts, particularly the sights, muzzle, &c.

3. KIT REQUIRED FOR TEACHING.

Gun, tripod, spare parts, spare barrel, belts and belt boxes, and dummy cartridges.

Cleaning rod, double pull-through and gauze.

Flannelette and old linen.

Lubricating oil, turpentine and paraffin.

Mirror reflector and spring balance.

Muzzle protector.

Boiling water.

4. MATERIALS SUPPLIED.

Materials for cleaning and oiling machine guns and their mountings will be supplied in the following proportions:—

	Per Machine Gun and Mounting. Peace (per annum).	
	For guns in use.	For guns in store.
Composition, preserving guns ...	—	1½ lbs.
Dublin	½ lb.	—
Flannelette	20 yds.*	6 yds.
Linen or cotton, old	3 lbs.	—
Oil, mineral, burning... ..	½ pt.	—
Oil, lubricating, G.S.... ..	8 pts.	—
Soap, yellow	4 bars	—
Turpentine	1 pt.	—

* 20 yards allowed for Regular Cavalry and Infantry. (*Authority*, "Equipment Regulations," Part I, para. 219.)

"Composition, preserving arms," is of great value for preventing the exterior of Vickers gun barrels from rusting in the field, and, if obtainable, should be regularly used.

The following will be allowed to each store in which machine guns are kept or dealt with, and will be replaced if necessary—

Flannel (old blanket is very effective)...	1 square yard.
Wick, common (A.S.C. supply) ...	8 ozs.
Twisted copper wire	1 rod, 42 inches long of wire 0.1 inch diameter in a double twist.

(*Authority*, "Equipment Regs." Part I, para. 20.)

5. GENERAL POINTS.

The instructor should explain the necessity of the following points:—

- Daily examination of guns after cleaning.
- Protection from sand and mud; trench bags, &c.
- Careful handling of guns.
- Correct adjustment of muzzle cup.
- Avoidance of damage to the sliding shutter, due to the revolving of the crank-handle with no lock in the gun.
- Lock spring not left compressed unnecessarily.
- Securing of the milled head brushes.
- Preservation of the browning on surfaces.
- Observation of all points taught in stripping and examination of machine guns.

6. GUNS.

(a) *History Sheet*.—Should a memorandum of examination or history sheet accompany a gun, it will be carefully preserved, and will be handed over with the gun to which it belongs whenever the gun is transferred from the charge of one officer to that of another, particulars being duly recorded.

An immediate record will be made in the sheet of any accident which may happen to the gun, and of the result of each official examination which the gun may undergo. On every occasion on which ball ammunition is used, the number of rounds fired will be shown, the number of the barrel being inserted in the column of remarks.

(b) *When in store.*—When guns are returned to store, packed for transmission, or stowed away in any place where they cannot be readily examined, the barrels and unpainted parts should be coated with "Composition, preserving, arms." The mixture should be made hot, and a piece of flannel dipped in it, with which the exterior parts will be dabbed. To coat the inside of the barrels, draw through from both ends a bunch of lamp cotton, well saturated with the mixture. The lamp cotton should be attached to a piece of twisted copper wire.

(c) *Wear in the bore.*—This is due to three causes :—

- (i) The friction of the bullet.
- (ii) The heat generated when ammunition is fired.
- (iii) The friction of the pull-through gauze when the bore is being cleaned.

Undue wear is caused by improper and unnecessary use of the pull-through gauze, to prevent which it is most important that the instructions for cleaning be observed. It is recognised that it may be necessary to modify these instructions to suit local climatic conditions, or to suit individual barrels which are in a bad state of preservation.

(d) *Rounds fired before barrel becomes unserviceable.*—The life of a gun barrel varies according to the rate and duration of fire, and the care exercised in cleaning, &c.

Cases are known where over 60,000 rounds have been fired from one barrel, e.g., Machine Guns No. 128 and 131. These two guns were used for firing demonstrations, and the barrels were changed when the dispersion of shots made it necessary, but they were still capable of good shooting.

The normal life of a barrel for purposes of firing over the heads of our own troops is considered to be 15,000 rounds.

(e) *High polish of the bore a safeguard against rust.*—When a barrel is new, the bore carries a high polish, and this is a great safeguard against rust and metallic fouling, but it must be recognised that as the bore becomes worn this polish will diminish. Efforts to restore it with wire gauze on the pull-through result in unnecessary wear. At the same time it must be clearly understood that in a machine gun that is well cared for, while the brilliancy of the polish will diminish, the lands of the bore should still be bright and free from all stain of rust and fouling.

(f) *Various kinds of fouling.*—In order that the instructions for cleaning may be understood, it is essential that the causes of fouling in barrels should be briefly explained. Fouling may be said to be of three kinds :—

- (i) Internal, caused by the forcing of the products of combustion into the pores of the metal.
- (ii) Superficial, caused by the deposit in the bore of the solid products of combustion of the charge and cap composition.
- (iii) Metallic fouling, caused by a portion of the cupronickel of the envelope of the bullet being left on the surface of the bore, and appearing as a whitish streak on the lands, or as a roughness on the edge of the grooves.

The result of neglect in either of the first two cases is the same, viz., the formation of rust in the bore, calling for the excessive use of wire gauze, or even more drastic treatment, thereby causing unnecessary wear.

Internal fouling can be removed satisfactorily by the use of boiling water. If for any reason this method of cleaning can-

not be used, the barrel will "sweat" and a hard black crust of fouling will appear in the bore. This will turn to red rust if not removed, and the barrel will then require repeated cleaning with flannelette and with gauze, for a time, which will vary according to climatic conditions and the state of the bore.

Superficial fouling is readily removed when warm by the use of a cleaning rod and flannelette, but if it is allowed to remain long in the barrel it will become hard, and will have a corrosive effect equal to that produced by internal fouling.

The barrel should be carefully watched for the appearance of nickelling or metallic fouling. This if deposited near the muzzle, or the breech, is visible to the eye when the bore is clean, but in the centre of the bore can only be detected by the use of the gauge plug. It is a cause of inaccuracy, and if a gun for no apparent reason shoots badly its presence should be looked for as a possible explanation.

(g) *Daily Cleaning*.—The outside of the gun will be cleaned daily, and all parts of the mechanism wiped with an oily rag; the bore of the gun will always be left oily.

To clean the mechanism mineral burning oil should be used. If any parts are clogged with dried oil, spirits of turpentine should be used to remove it. After each part is cleaned, it should be thoroughly dried and slightly oiled with oil lubricating G.S. Very little oil should be used for this purpose, as it is apt to catch the dust and clog.

Moving the recoiling portions by working the crank handle after hanging the lock affords a ready means of oiling the recoiling portions and the bearing parts of the barrel, viz.:

- (a) Just in front of the barrel block (to which access can be obtained by removing the feed block), and
- (b) At the muzzle end, in front of the packing gland.

The lock is hung as follows:—Pull the crank handle slowly backwards till the horns of the extractor drop into the steps on the rear face of the solid cams. The barrel and side-plates can now be moved backwards by placing the thumb behind the knob of the crank handle and the two first fingers on the tail of the handle and rotating it.

No oil other than lubricating G.S. should be allowed to remain in the bore. The function of this oil is to cover the bore with a waterproof film, and thus prevent moisture from attacking the steel and forming rust. It must be well worked into the flannelette with the fingers, otherwise it will be scraped off by the breech end of the barrel. When paraffin has been used, all traces of it should be thoroughly removed and the part coated with lubricating oil G.S., for paraffin, though an efficient agent for removing rust, does not prevent its formation.

(h) *Weekly Cleaning*.—The gun should be thoroughly overhauled and cleaned each week.

The oil should be removed from the bore, and replaced by fresh oil. In cases where the bore has once become rusty, it should be wiped out with flannelette, and then cleaned with the gauze on the pull-through.

TO CLEAN THE BARREL.

Pull the crank handle on to the roller, open the cover, raise the lock and let it go forward slowly and rest upon the top of the breech casing. Take off the outer casing and muzzle cup of the muzzle attachment. Place a piece of flannelette about 4 inches by 2 inches, in each eye or slot of the cleaning rod, care being taken that the latter is surrounded with flannelette, which should be well oiled; then insert the rod into the muzzle of the barrel, placing the movable bush on

the muzzle, and pass it up and down till the barrel is clean ; replace the oiled flannelette by dry pieces ; inspect the bore by means of the mirror reflector, and finally pass freshly oiled pieces through the bore, leaving the barrel slightly oiled. If the passage of the flannelette through the breech is stiff, and force is required, it is necessary that the flannelette be reversed on the rod before being withdrawn.

When the gun has been fired, daily cleaning of the barrel is necessary for at least ten days afterwards. Subsequent cleaning must depend on the discretion of the officer in charge of the gun ; in a dry climate once a week should be sufficient, but in situations where the barrel is exposed to a moist atmosphere it may be necessary daily. The bore should at all times be left coated with oil.

When the D.P. barrel has been used for firing blank ammunition, it should be thoroughly cleaned as soon as possible, and left coated with oil. Subsequently weekly cleaning should suffice, but this also must depend on local conditions.

For use on the double pull-through wire gauze in pieces $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches by $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches is supplied, and should be used for the removal of hard fouling or of rust. In attaching it to the pull-through the following method should be adopted :—

Turn the shorter sides of the gauze towards the centre, so that the longer sides take the form "S." Open the loop of the pull-through and put one side of it in each loop of the "S." Then coil each half of the gauze tightly round the portion of the cord over which it is placed, till the two rolls, thus formed, meet.

The object of the gauze is mainly to scour out the grooves and it should therefore fit the bore tightly. When it fails

to do this it should be partially unrolled, and packed with paper or flannelette to increase its bulk.

Grit must be removed from the gauze and pull-through before use, and these should be thoroughly oiled.

Cleaning with gauze entails wear of the bore. Gauze should not be pulled through the barrel more often than is laid down. The surest way of preventing the necessity for the continued use of the gauze is to keep the bore oiled so as to prevent rust. A barrel which has become rusty will always be more liable to rust than one which has been kept in good condition. It will therefore require more attention and more frequent cleaning with gauze. Similarly, a barrel which is showing signs of wear will require more care than one in which the surface has not been attacked, for, the eroded portion being rough, moisture is more likely to collect on it and form rust. It is also more difficult to remove rust thoroughly from a rough surface than from a smooth one.)

TO USE THE DOUBLE PULL-THROUGH.

Remove the barrel, place the muzzle protector in position, and, having thoroughly oiled the gauze, drop the weight through the bore from the breech end. Fix the barrel in a vice, or have it held firmly by two men, and with the assistance of another man pull the cord backwards and forwards until the fouling or rust is loosened ; when the gauze is worn out, it should be replaced by one of the spare pieces which are issued with each double pull-through.

When signs of wear appear, a new cord should be taken into use, to avoid the risk of the pull-through breaking in the bore. If a breakage does occur, the barrel must at once be taken to the armourer. No attempt should be made by the gunner to remove the obstruction.

Great care must be taken to avoid cord wear at the breech end of the barrel. The barrel can now be cleaned with the cleaning rod and flannelette as described above.

(i) *Cleaning after Firing*.—Guns will be cleaned immediately after firing. The fouling can easily be removed while it is still warm and before it has had time to set hard. The less the time that is allowed for the fouling to exercise its power of absorbing moisture from the air, the less chance is there of rust forming.

(j) *Cleaning with Boiling Water*.—An effective means of cleaning the bore, whether firing has taken place or not, is found in the use of boiling water. Before boiling water is used, the barrel should be taken out of the gun, and superficial fouling and grease removed. About 5 or 6 pints should be poured through the bore from the breech, using a funnel for the purpose. The bore should then be thoroughly dried and oiled. Not only does the boiling water remove the fouling, but the expansion of the metal due to the heat of the water loosens any rust there may be, and makes it easily removable.

(k) *In Sandy Countries*.—Great care is necessary in the quantity of oil to be used. A thin film of oil, i.e., parts wiped over with a slightly oiled rag, will prevent rust during the night, and also be sufficient lubricant for working the gun during firing.

(l) *In Frosty Weather*.—Oil the mechanism very slightly. Try to prevent the water in the barrel casing from freezing by the following methods:—

- (1) Wrap straw, blanket or sacking round the barrel casing.
- (2) When dismounted, place the gun between the men of the section when resting.

(3) Add to the water 20 per cent. of glycerine or 33 per cent. glycerine residue, whichever is available, and ensure that no more than 5 pints of the solution are in the barrel casing. Care must be exercised in using glycerine in closed emplacements as it will give off harmful fumes if the water boils.

(4) It may sometimes be useful to keep both locks wrapped in a dry rag in a man's pocket.

7. TRIPODS.

Care must be taken that the jamming handles do not get bent, that the chains securing the joint-pins do not get broken, that the dials do not get damaged. The elevating gear must not be allowed to work loose. The serrations must be kept clean, and the jamming handles must not be clamped, unless the serrations coincide. Tripods should be thoroughly overhauled and cleaned periodically.

8. BELTS.

Belts should be frequently examined; they should be kept free from dirt, should not be torn, and the brass strips should not be bent or broken. Belts should be kept free from moisture and oil. New belts must be plugged, but care must be taken in the use of the belt plug, or loose pockets will result.

To clean a dirty or greasy belt. Soak it for two hours in a solution containing 1 part soda, 3 parts soft soap, and 10 parts water. The belt should then be scrubbed and hung up to dry, and plugged when dry.

9. BELT BOXES.

They must be frequently inspected, especially the metal boxes.

If metal boxes are dented, filled belts cannot be withdrawn freely.

Dirt, &c., must be cleaned out from the interior, and all traces of mud removed from the exterior. The outside of metal boxes should be wiped periodically with a slightly oiled rag.

10. AMMUNITION.

This must not be subjected to extremes of temperature. It must be kept dry and clean, and when in belts must be examined daily and the rounds turned. Small particles of grit, sand, earth, &c., are very liable to get fixed to the rim of a cartridge, or even on the bullet. The result may be either a stoppage or a bulged barrel. On no account must ammunition be oiled.

11. GAS.

As a protection against gas, the lids of belt boxes must be kept closed, and guns covered with waterproof sheets. In the case of a gas attack, either hang the lock and work the recoiling portions, or keep the gun firing. After a gas attack, guns should be cleaned as soon as possible. Oiling will prevent corrosion for about 12 hours, but when opportunity occurs clean all parts in boiling water containing a little soda. All traces of gas must be removed from the ammunition with a slightly oiled rag, and then the ammunition must be thoroughly dried.

SECTION VI.—STRIPPING.

Points to be observed.

1. Use correct tools, *e.g.*, screwdrivers according to size of screw, correct punches, &c. If this rule is not observed screws get burred, and can only be removed by an artificer.

2. Before attempting to withdraw screwed axis pins, make certain that threads of screw are fully unscrewed.

3. When replacing screwed axis pins do not use force; the threads will engage without using unnecessary pressure. If this rule is not observed the threads (which are extremely fine) will become so burred, that it will be impossible to replace the pin, *e.g.*, cover lock screwed axis pin.

4. When raising the rear cover do not throw it upwards, but lift it. The hinges are liable to strain. Before lowering, see that the lock is correctly in the gun.

5. Before closing down the front cover, see that the feed block is correctly in position, and the front cover catch raised.

6. When using combination tool to unscrew the clamping screw of the muzzle cup, be careful not to burr the head of the screw. If the squared edges of the clamping screw become rounded through neglect of this precaution, the tool will not bite, and the screw can only be removed with difficulty.

7. When removing parts secured by chains, do not tug on the chain, otherwise they get broken, and the part eventually is lost, *e.g.*, outer casing split pin, cork plug, screwed plugs, tripod pins.

8. With reasonable care, defects and breakages in machine

guns should be of extremely rare occurrence. They are simply due to neglect of ordinary precautions.

9. Direct hammer blows must never fall on any part of the gun. Wood must always be placed over the part to receive blows from the hammer or mallet.

10. In stripping examinations no time limit will be imposed, in order to avoid damage to the gun by careless handling.

CHANGING OF BARRELS.

The necessity of saving water in the barrel casing entirely depends upon prevailing conditions. In tropical countries every drop of water is of value. Again, in action water may not be available, and time may be of the utmost importance. On the other hand, if the gun is being stripped in barracks or billets, there is no necessity to save the water, providing a further supply can easily be obtained.

TO CHANGE A BARREL WITHOUT LOSING THE WATER.

Unload.

Remove the lock.

Remove the outer casing of the muzzle attachment and muzzle cup.

Remove the feed block.

Remove the fuze spring, and box.

Remove the T fixing pin and lower the rear crosspiece.

Remove the slides, left and right.

Remove the elevating joint pin and depress the gun.

Great care must be taken to avoid damage to the direction dial. Order No. 2 to hold a rag or pad, over the muzzle, and when the recoiling portions are being withdrawn to follow up the barrel with the pad, in order to close the hole in the

front end of the barrel casing. Withdraw the recoiling portions. When replacing a new barrel, the above operations should be reversed. The water may also be saved by allowing it to run from the barrel casing into a receptacle, when the barrel will be changed as above.

DETAILED STRIPPING OF THE GUN AND ITS COMPONENT PARTS.

The gun is stripped in the following order, the gun being on the mounting.

NOTE.—Operations marked with an asterisk will only be performed by an armourer.

Lock.—Unload ; raise the rear cover, pull the crank handle on to the roller ; see that the extractor drops, place the finger between the extractor and stop and lift the lock—at the same time allowing the crank handle to move slowly forward until the lock is released from the side-plates. Give the lock one-sixth turn and lift it out.

Feed Block.—Raise the front cover and lift out.

Fuze Spring Box.—With the right hand at the rear and the left hand at the front, press the box forward until clear of the stud, and remove. Disconnect the fuze chain and remove the box and the spring.

Fuze.—Turn the fuze to the rear until the lugs on the stem are free to be withdrawn.

Muzzle Attachment.—Withdraw the split pin. Give the outer casing one-sixth turn and remove it. Unscrew the front cone,† loosen the clamping screw of the muzzle cap,

† In guns of later manufacture, the end cover must be removed before the front cone is unscrewed.

and revolve the cup until the clamping screw coincides with the flat of the barrel. Remove the muzzle cup.† Unscrew and remove the gland and packing.

Recoiling Portions.—Raise the rear cover, unscrew the T-fixing pin, and lower the rear crosspiece; remove the right and left slides, and draw out the recoiling portions. Disconnect the side-plates from the barrel (removing the left one first).

* If necessary, by taking out the fixing pin, the crank handle can be driven off with a drift and hammer.

Roller.—Remove the split fixing pin, collar and roller.

* *Check Lever.*—Drive out the keeper pin from the underside, and take off the check lever. To remove the piston and spring, turn the piston by using a screwdriver in the slot, until its lugs are free to pass along the slots, then the piston will be forced out by the force of the spring.

* *Tangent Sight.*—Unscrew the axis pin and remove. Remove tangent sight, piston and spring.

Rear Cover Lock.—Unscrew the axis pin and remove. Remove the rear cover lock and spring.

Trigger Bar.—Remove the spring and withdraw the trigger bar.

* *Front and Rear Covers.*—Remove the keeper pin and check nut, and force out the joint pin.

* *Front Cover Catch.*—To remove the spring and plunger, force the plug inwards, and give a quarter turn by means of a screwdriver, when the plug will be forced out by the spring. Before removing the plunger it must be turned so that the slots are free to pass the lugs in the catch. If necessary, by taking out the keeper pin, the catch can be taken out.

† With Mark II cup unscrew and remove the cup.

* *Rear Crosspiece.*—Remove the keeper pin and check nut, and force out the joint pin.

* *Foresight.*—The position of the foresight should first be carefully marked; drive the foresight out of the dovetail seating through the right-hand opening in the protector.

REMOVE THE GUN FROM THE MOUNTING.

Steam Tube.—Place the gun on end, so that it stands on the rear end of the breech casing. Remove the keeper screw and unscrew the steam tube. (This should not be removed if the valve is free.)

Sliding Shutter.—Press in the catch, and force the shutter to the front until it is against the stop, then press in the plunger with the No. 3 punch, and force the shutter forward until it is clear of the breech casing.

TO ASSEMBLE THE GUN.

Reverse all the foregoing operations, with the exception that the recoiling portions must be replaced before the front packing and gland.

When assembling the barrel and side-plates, force must not be used. If the side-plates are not home on the barrel trunnions and crank-shaft, the barrel must be withdrawn and the side-plates properly assembled, otherwise burrs on the crank-shaft may occur.

When replacing the gland of the muzzle attachment, care must be taken to see that it is screwed right home to the barrel casing. When not home the gland is liable to foul the muzzle cup when the barrel recoils, and thus cause damage to the cup. The split pin which fixes the outer casing of the attachment to the gland should be placed in the top hole.

Care must be taken, when re-assembling the steam tube,

that the acorn end is inserted into its seating in the barrel casing.

This is more easily assured by keeping the acorn end in contact with the adjacent channel formed by corrugation of the barrel casing.

The tube should screw home freely when in the correct position.

When replacing the muzzle cup (Mark I) on the barrel, the screw must coincide with the flat on the muzzle to allow the cup to pass. After the cup has been pushed home it must be given a half turn to bring the clamping screw into the groove cut in the barrel. It must then be screwed up firmly with the combination tool. Neglect of this may lead to the cup being broken or blown off.

STRIPPING VARIOUS COMPONENTS.

To Strip the Lock.—See that the lock is cocked; force out the side lever split pin and axis bush; remove the side levers, the extractor levers and the extractor. Push out the tumbler axis pin and remove. Release the lock spring, push out the trigger axis pin. Remove the trigger, lock spring, firing pin and sear with spring.

To Strip the Extractor.—Push out the gib spring cover, and remove the spring and gib.

To Assemble the Lock.—Reverse the above, except in the case of the lock spring, which must be forced home, long arm towards the extractor, when the lock is in the fired position, and when all the other parts are assembled.

NOTE.—The firing pin should never be released unless the extractor is up against the top stop.

To Strip the Feed Block.—Force out the split pin and separate the top and bottom levers; take out the slide and remove the pawls and spring.

Draw out the bottom pawl axis pin and remove the spring and pawls.

To assemble, reverse the above.

* *To Strip the Rear Crosspiece.*—Unscrew the firing lever axis pin, and remove the firing lever with pawl. Unscrew the safety catch axis pin; remove the safety catch and spring with piston; lift out the trigger bar lever.

To assemble, reverse the above. See that the pawl engages the trigger bar lever.

To Strip the Tangent Sight.—Unscrew the axis pin and force it out. Remove the tangent sight, piston and spring.

* *To Strip the Tangent Sight Slide, Mark I.*—Remove the fixing screws, graduated plate, milled head and slide spring; drive out the pawl fixing pin; take off the pawl; push out the pinion and remove the slide. *Mark II.*—Remove the split pin, unscrew the clamping nut and remove the pinion.

To assemble, reverse the above in each case.

SECTION VII.—POINTS TO BE ATTENDED TO BEFORE FIRING.

(a) The surfaces on which all movable parts work should be thoroughly well oiled with G.S. oil, lubricating, especially the following:—

Bearing parts of the barrel and all recoiling portions.

The lock guides on the side-plates, also the working parts of the lock itself, especially the levers and extractor.

Face of the feed block.

Bearings of the crank, the extractor stop on the front cover, the curved ramps, lock guides and trigger bar on the inside of the rear cover, and the check lever.

(b) In order to see that the recoiling portions work freely, cock the lock, remove the fuze spring box and spring, turn the crank handle upwards, take hold of it with the right hand and the fuze with the left, move the recoiling portions with the gun horizontal, backwards and forwards, to see that they work freely and also that the barrel goes close home forward. The weight necessary to move the recoiling portions should not exceed 4 lbs.

(c) Replace the fuze spring and weigh it with the spring balance (*vide* Section 13).

(d) Thoroughly dry the bore, muzzle cup and muzzle attachment. See that the muzzle cup is correctly assembled and firmly screwed up. Examine the lock, feed block, firing lever, safety catch, &c.

(e) See that the barrel casing is filled with water. To fill the casing, remove the screwed plug at the breech end, and also the cork plug, pour in the water, and replace the plugs. In climates where the temperature is likely to fall much below freezing point, not more than about 5 pints of water should be put into the barrel casing; and 20 per cent. of glycerine or 33 per cent. of glycerine residue, which ever is available, mixed with the water, will prevent it from freezing quickly.

(f) Ensure that the handles have been filled with oil; ascertain that the spare parts box, case and their contents, and the cleaning rod, are with the gun

(g) Examine the belts, inspect the brass strips, see that

the belts are correctly filled and packed carefully in the belt boxes. Keep the belts dry if possible; should they get wet, lay them out to dry. New or stiff belts should be well plugged.

(h) Should the water in the barrel casing become frozen, on the gun being fired, the barrel will probably not recoil far enough to work the gun, and will remain back. To remedy this, pull the crank handle on to the roller, then bring it back to a vertical position and force the barrel to the front, pulling the belt if necessary; let the crank handle return to the check lever and fire the gun. This should be repeated until the barrel recoils correctly.

(i) See that the condenser tube is fitted to the gun.

(j) Examine the tripod.

POINTS TO BE ATTENDED TO DURING FIRING.

(a) See that a sufficient supply of water is kept in the barrel casing so that the barrel is never uncovered.

The water in the barrel casing begins to boil when the gun has fired about 600 rounds with the greatest rapidity; after this, if the firing is continued, the amount of water evaporated is about $1\frac{1}{2}$ pints for each 1,000 rounds. When the barrel casing is filled with water, about 2,000 rounds may be discharged at short intervals without replenishing, but this depends upon the rapidity with which the gun is fired.

(b) The belt is on no account to be pulled when the gun is firing.

(c) During a temporary cessation of fire, oil the lock and all frictional parts, remove a partly used belt and replace it by a full one. See that the clamps of the tripod legs have not worked loose.

(d) Keep the belt always in line with the feed block, and

the ammunition box, if possible up to, but not above, the cross head-joint pin.

- (e) See that the belts are refilled without delay.
- (f) See that the muzzle cup has not worked loose.
- (g) See that the condenser bag is attached to the condenser tube before the water boils.
- (h) See that repairs receive immediate attention.

POINTS TO BE ATTENDED TO AFTER FIRING.

- (a) See that the gun is unloaded.
- (b) See that the chamber, bore and muzzle cup, are well oiled immediately after firing.
- (c) See that the lock spring is released.
- (d) See that any live cartridges that happen to be among the cases are collected.

On return to barracks the gun and barrel should be thoroughly cleaned as soon as possible. The water must be drained out of the barrel casing. The lock should be examined to ensure that it is not damaged. The barrel must be removed and carefully dried and oiled, the outside of the barrel being oiled as well as the bore. Ammunition belts should be examined, and if wet or damp should be hung up to dry.

Tripods should be cleaned.

TABLE OF POINTS.

To be attended to before, during, and after firing.

BEFORE FIRING.

- 1. Examine barrel, spare parts, &c.
- 2. Oil up. (Bearing parts of barrel and recoiling portions; lock guides: working parts of lock, especially levers and

extractor; crank bearings; ramps; trigger bar and check lever.)

- 3. Dry the bore, muzzle cup and muzzle attachment.
- 4. Muzzle cup to be correctly fitted.
- 5. Test recoiling portions.
- 6. Weigh fuze spring.
- 7. See to water supply.
- 8. Oil in handles, &c.
- 9. Examine belts.
- 10. Action to be taken in very cold weather.
- 11. Examine tripod.
- 12. Secure gun mounting, &c., if for travelling.
- 13. See condenser tube attached.

DURING FIRING.

- 1. Belts refilled.
- 2. Watch water supply.
- 3. Belt not pulled.
- 4. Temporary cessation, oil up and change belt, &c. (Oil up bearing parts of barrel and recoiling portions; lock guides; working parts of lock, especially levers and extractors; crank bearings; ramps; trigger bar and check lever.)
- 5. Ammunition box up and in line.
- 6. See clamps of tripod legs not loose.
- 7. Muzzle cup tight.
- 8. See condenser bag attached.
- 9. See breakages attended to.

AFTER FIRING.

- 1. Unload.
- 2. Oil bore and muzzle cup.
- 3. Clean bore.

4. Release lock spring.
5. Run off water, if no longer required.
6. Secure gun mounting, &c., if for travelling.
7. Sort live rounds from empty cases.
8. Clean and examine gun thoroughly on return to shelter.
9. Enter up history sheet.
10. Overhaul tripods, belts, belt boxes, spare parts, ammunition.
11. Dry wet belts.

SECTION VIII.—SPARE PARTS INSTRUCTION.

The importance of knowing what is and what is not carried spare should be impressed on all machine gunners. It is essential to know where to find any spare parts that may be required. All spare parts must be given their proper names. A list of deficiencies should be kept inside each box, and the necessity of checking spare parts whenever opportunity offers must be emphasised. Breakages and losses must be reported immediately. Spare parts must be kept slightly oiled.

Method of Instruction.

First Lesson.—Object : To describe the spare parts box, case and wallet and to teach the correct names of spare parts.

The instructor, having laid out the whole of the contents of the spare parts box, spare parts case and wallet, will teach his squad as follows :—

Holding up each article (in accordance with official list of spare parts) he will call out the correct name given to it. The use of the spare part being dealt with will be explained.

Second Lesson.—Object : To teach the proper method of packing.

The instructor will lay out the whole of the spare parts as already described.

The instructor will teach the numbers on issue and the method of packing each part.

BOX, SPARE PARTS AND TOOLS, '303-INCH VICKERS GUN, LEATHER (MARK I).

The box is of leather of the following dimensions :— 13 inches by $8\frac{1}{4}$ inches by $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches (approximately). Internally it is fitted with partitions, loops, and straps, to take the stores enumerated on p. 82. It is closed with a lid which is secured by a strap. Carrying straps, with handles, are provided. The box also carries the spare parts case.

BOX, SPARE PARTS AND TOOLS, '303-INCH VICKERS GUN, WOOD (MARKS I AND II).

These wooden boxes are supplied as alternative to the leather box before described. They are fitted to take the same complement of spare parts and tools and the same pattern of leather spare part case as carried in the leather box. The lid is hinged and is secured by means of a spring catch, and carrying straps, with handles, are provided.

The dimensions of the boxes are as follows :—

			Mark I.	Mark II.
Length over all	...	...	$19\frac{3}{16}$ in.	$15\frac{11}{32}$ in.
Depth	"	...	$7\frac{1}{2}$ "	8 "
Width	"	...	$9\frac{11}{32}$ "	$9\frac{1}{2}$ "

*CASE, SPARE PART BOX, .303-INCH VICKERS GUN
(MARK I).

The case is of leather, 8½ inches by 5 inches by 4 inches. It contains the wallet, and stores enumerated on p. 84. It is closed by a lid secured by a strap. A shoulder strap 66 inches long passes round the case through loops at the sides.

*WALLET, CASE SPARE PARTS BOX, .303-INCH VICKERS
GUN (MARK I).

The wallet is of leather, and when opened out measures 11½ inches by 8½ inches. It is provided with a double pocket to take the stores enumerated on p. 84. When folded it is secured by a strap. The wallet is carried in the spare parts case.

CONTENTS OF SPARE PARTS BOX.

Blocks, jamming, with screw and handle, tripod mounting,	
Mark IV	1†
Blocks, feed	1
Boxes, tin, for small parts	2
Bushes, axis side levers	2
Case, spare parts	1‡
Collar, roller	1
Cork	1
Cups, muzzle attachment	2
Discs,	5
Eyelets, long	oz. ½
Fuzee, with chain	1
Gib	1
Gland, packing	1
Hammer	1
Lever extractor, left	1

* The case with wallet forms a first aid gun kit and should always accompany the gun when in action.

† In one box, only in No. 1 limber of each section.

‡ For contents see "Spare Parts Case."

Lever extractor, right	1
Packing, asbestos (5 yards pieces)	2
Pins, axis trigger	1
" " tumbler	1
" firing	1
" fixing, crank handle	2
" split fixing collar roller	2
" " keeper, ½ in. by 2¼ in.	3
" " bush axis, side levers	2
" " check nut, long	4
" " muzzle attachment	1
" "T" fixing rear crosspiece	1
Plugs, belt	1‡§
Plugs, cork, complete	1‡
" screwed	1
" front cover catch	2
Plungers, front cover catch	2
Roller	1
Screws, clamping, cup, muzzle attachment	2*
Screw-driver, large	1
Sights, luminous, back and fore, each	1‡
" fore	1
" tangent	1
Spanner, shifting	1
Springs, bottom pawl	1
" cover lock	2
" front cover catch	2
" gib	1
" lock	2
" safety catch with piston	2
" sear	2
" sliding shutter catch	2
" tangent sight	2
" " " slide	2**
" top pawl	1
" trigger bar	2

* Not issued for Mark II cups.

** Not issued for Mark II slides.

‡ Issued and indented for separately; not part of the contents of spare parts box as issued.

§ In one box only, in each limber.

Strips, long	25
„ short	25
Tool, repairing belt	1
Wire, gauze (pieces)	2

CONTENTS OF SPARE PARTS CASE.

Balance, spring	1
Can, oil	1
Flannelette, for binding plasticine or luting pads (yards)	8†
Funnel	1
Level, spirit, Mark I	1‡
Lock	1
Plasticine or luting	oz. 6‡
Plug, clearing	1
Spring, fuze	1
Tool, combination	1
Wallet	1||

LIST OF ARTICLES CARRIED IN WALLET.

Cork	1
Cup, muzzle (complete with clamping screw)	1
Disc, muzzle attachment	1
Fuze, with chain	1
Gib	1
Pins, axis trigger	1
„ axis tumbler	1
„ firing	3
„ split keeper, $\frac{1}{8}$ in. by $2\frac{1}{4}$ in.	1
Pliers, cutting, pair	1‡
Protector, muzzle	1
Pullthrough, double	1
Punch, No. 3	1
„ No. 5	1
Reflector, mirror	1
Screwdriver, small	1
Sear, with spring	1
Spring, gib	2
„ lock	2

† Issued and indented for separately; not part of the contents of spare part box as issued.

|| For contents see "Wallet."

Trigger	1
Tumbler... ..	1
Washers, adjusting, No. 1, .003 inch	3
„ „ No. 2, .005 inch	3

In addition the following are supplied to complete the equipment:—

Barrels.

Belts ammunition.

Lock, skeleton brass

Lock D.P. (instructional)

Rod cleaning

Clinometer Mark IV. See "List of Changes, War Material."

} see "Equipment Regulations."

SECTION IX.—IMMEDIATE ACTION.

Definition.—The automatic application of a probable remedy for the stoppage, based on the position of the crank handle.

GENERAL REMARKS.

1. It is essential that all the kit required is at hand.
2. The various immediate actions necessary to remedy temporary stoppages are denoted by the position of the crank-handle, which may stop in one of four positions, known as the first, second, third, or fourth position.
3. The stoppage should be set up as described in Section X.
4. While stoppage is being set up, the firer should be seated on the ground, behind the gun, with his head turned aside, and on the removal of the covering from the crank-handle he should perform the immediate action.
5. The instructor must not deal with the causes of stoppages during the first stages of instruction in immediate action.

6. The instructor must insist on correct reloading and relaying.

7. As proficiency is attained, training should be carried out in darkness, or with No. 1 blindfolded, and also with the auxiliary mounting.

8. To afford training in immediate action, each stoppage should be set up as if the gun had stopped during the actual firing.

9. Whenever a temporary stoppage necessitates the use of a spare lock, &c., the part which has been removed should be repaired and returned to the gun as soon as possible.

10. Immediate action is not complete until the gun has been reloaded and fired. A target must always be indicated at the beginning of the lesson.

11. After the immediate action has been completed, the instructor should check the aim and criticise any errors.

12. The rear cover should never be opened nor closed with the lock home.

13. If the lock cannot be drawn back, open the front cover and force down the extractor.

14. The rear and front covers, when lowered, must always be fastened correctly.

15. A lock must never be changed with cartridges on the face of the extractor.

16. Should it be necessary to release the lock spring with the lock out of the gun, this should be done with the extractor held right up, so that the firing pin hole is opposite the firing pin.

The following table of temporary stoppages set out under five columns gives a clear indication of the method to be employed in teaching the practical side of the mechanism. Column I shows the four positions of the crank handle when the gun stops firing. The first three positions may vary slightly. These positions, which afford a ready indication of

the correct "Immediate Action" to be performed, must be recognised clearly before the instruction proceeds. They should be demonstrated at the beginning of instruction.

At this stage the squad should not be required to know what these four positions indicate. It will be explained later, when the probable causes of the stoppages are being taught.

Column 2 gives a detailed description of the "Immediate Action" to be performed by the firer (sometimes with the assistance of No. 2) as soon as the position of the crank handle has been recognised after the gun has stopped firing.

Column 3 deals with the probable causes of these stoppages, but it is of first importance that the instructor does not proceed to this stage, until he is assured that every "Immediate Action" can be correctly and immediately carried out without the slightest hesitation or forethought.


A thorough knowledge of the causes of temporary stoppages will not only give the squad a practical knowledge of the working of the gun, but will also be a help in the discovery of the cause of any unusual stoppage which may occur.

In Column 4 is given the method for preventing the recurrence of certain stoppages, the causes of which may only be temporarily cured by the immediate action. It will sometimes be possible to carry out these remedies in two or three minutes; at other times their execution may cause the gun to be out of action for a longer period; but, in either case, no skilled assistance or special appliances, other than those carried with the machine gun section, will be required.

Column 5 shows how the various temporary stoppages can be simulated for instructional purposes. It is unnecessary to teach these methods of preparation to the machine gunner, but every instructor must have a thorough knowledge of this column in order to teach the correct "Immediate Action" for any temporary stoppage.

TEMPORARY STOPPAGES.

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Position of Crank Handle.	Immediate Action.	Probable Cause.	Prevention of Recurrence.	Method of Preparation.
<p>I.</p>  <p><i>Indication.</i>—The lock is unable to come back far enough to allow the extractor to drop.</p>	<p>(i) Pull the crank handle on to the roller, pull the belt to the left front, and let go the crank handle.</p> <p>(ii) If, after carrying out (i), the crank handle stops in the same position when going forward, pull the crank handle on to the roller, open the rear cover, clear the face of the extractor, change the lock and reload.</p> <p>(iii) If failure recurs, repeat (i) and lighten fuzee spring by 3 "clicks."</p>	<p>The extractor has not dropped. This may be due to:—(i) Weak charge. (ii) Weak or broken gib spring. (iii) Too heavy fuzee spring. (iv) Want of oil in working parts. (v) Grit in working parts. (vi) Excessive packing. (vii) Worm barrel. (viii) Tight pockets. (ix) Friction due to frozen oil or water.</p>	<p>(i) Attend to points before and during firing.</p>	<p>Perform half the loading motions; pull the crank handle slowly back until the horns of the extractor have engaged with the steps of the cams; let go crank handle and pull the belt to the left front.</p> <p><i>Note.</i>—In all cases except where the stoppage is caused by a weak charge the preparation must be repeated.</p> <p>To set up a stoppage caused by a weak or broken gib spring, perform half the loading motions; open the rear cover; withdraw and lift up the lock. Slide the cartridge on the face of the extractor half way down the lower projection of the gib, replace the lock and pull the belt to the left front.</p>

II.



Indication.—The lock is unable to go fully home after recoil.

<p>(i) Force the crank handle to the rear and call out "Clearing Plug," open the rear cover, lift up the lock and examine the cartridge on the face of the extractor. If a damaged cartridge, or an undamaged cartridge with the front portion of a separated case adhering to it is found, call out "don't want it," clear the face of the extractor and reload.</p>	<p>(i) (a) Damaged cartridge. (b) Separated case with front portion withdrawn telescoped on undamaged cartridge.</p>	<p>(i) (a) and (ii)—If a succession of separated cases occurs the connecting rod must be lengthened if a change of lock effects no improvement.</p>	<p>(i) (a) Insert a bulged dummy cartridge as the first cartridge in the belt, and load.</p> <p><i>For Range Poses.</i>—Place a bulged dummy cartridge in the belt.</p> <p>(b) Perform half the loading motions. Open the rear cover, withdraw and lift up the lock. Place the front portion of a separated case securely over the bullet of the cartridge on the extractor. Replace the lock, close the rear cover, pull the belt, and let the crank handle go slowly forward.</p> <p><i>Note.</i>—Another method is to use a dummy with the front portion of a separated case soldered on it.</p>
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For Range Poses.—Increase the weight of the fuzee spring.

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Position of Crank Handle.	Immediate Action.	Probable Cause.	Prevention of Recurrence.	Method of Preparation.
<p>II—continued.</p> <p>(i) If an undamaged cartridge, with no front portion of separated case adhering to it is found on the extractor, clear the face of the lock, replace the lock, keeping the crank handle on the roller.</p> <p>Take the clearing plug (seeing that the centre pin is back) and insert it into the chamber. Push the pin well home by allowing the lock to go forward slowly, keep a firm pressure on the crank handle, give the clearing plug a rocking motion; withdraw the lock; strike back the handle of the clearing plug and withdraw it (seeing that the front portion of the separated case is on the clearing plug) and reload.</p>		<p>(ii) Separated case. Front portion remaining in chamber.</p>		<p>(i) Perform half the loading motions, raise rear cover and lift out lock; place the front portion of a separated case lightly over the bullet of the round on the extractor and allow the lock to go slowly forward, ensuring that the separation will remain in the chamber. Close rear cover and pull belt to the left front.</p> <p><i>For Range Purposes.</i>—File a cartridge about one inch from the base, and insert in the belt. Care must be taken that the cartridge is not filed too far through, as there is danger of the bullet being left in the barrel.</p>

III.



Indication.—The extractor is unable to rise to its highest position.

If the feed block slide is jammed, there is a fault in feed.


<p>(i) Slightly raise the crank handle, pull the belt to the left front, let go the crank handle, and then strike it down on the check lever.</p>	<p>(i) A cartridge is fed up slightly crosswise.</p>	<p>(i) Examine cartridges in belt.</p>	<p>(i) Perform half the loading motions, then pull the crank handle on to the roller and raise the rear cover; pull the belt just sufficient to move a cartridge half way into the face of the feed block. Allow crank handle to go slowly forward so that it will remain in the third position, and lower the rear cover.</p>
<p>(ii) If the stoppage recurs, repeat the immediate action, unload, oil the working parts, and reload.</p>	<p>(ii) Friction in lock, &c.</p>	<p>(ii) Attend to points during firing.</p>	<p>(ii) Proceed to loc. but crank handle must be eased forward the second time in order that it may remain in the third position.</p> <p><i>Note.</i>—In the case of a stoppage due to friction, the preparation must be repeated.</p>

TEMPORARY STOPPAGES—continued.

Position of Crank Handle.	Immediate Action.	Probable Cause.	Prevention of Recurrence.	Method of Preparation.
III—continued.	(iii) If (i) fails, examine feed block slide. If jammed, No. 1 calls out "Feed Block," pulls the crank handle on to the roller,* holds it there and unlocks and opens the front cover. No. 2, with the assistance of No. 1, raises the feed block sufficiently to allow the recoiling portions to go home. He releases the top and bottom pawls from the belt, which he withdraws until the top cartridge is clear of the feed block, and rectifies the belt or cartridges, if necessary. He replaces the feed block, pushing the slide over to the left. No. 1 lowers and locks the front cover, pulls the belt to the left front, and releases the crank handle.	(iii) (a) Bent or damaged long brass strip. (b) Badly filled belt. (c) Worn or loose belt pockets. (d) Belt box not in line with the feed block. <i>Note.</i> —The effect of a fault in feed is that the top pawls, being engaged behind a cartridge in the belt, are held fast, when some obstruction, such as above, prevents the belt from passing freely through the feed block. The recoiling portions, being connected by the top and bottom levers to the slide, are arrested and prevented from going home. The distance they are held back depends upon the point at which obstruction asserts itself.	(iii) Attend to before and during firing. <i>Note.</i> —Badly-filled belts are the chief cause of stoppages in the third position.	(iii) Pull out the fourth cartridge in the belt about half an inch. Perform half the loading motions; pull the crank handle slowly back until the horns of the extractor have engaged with the steps on the cams. Draw the recoiling portions to the rear by forcing the knob of the crank handle forward, and the tail to the rear, at the same time pulling the belt to the left. Bring the crank handle on to the roller and ease forward.

(iv) If slide is free, No. 1 calls out "Extractor," and opens the front cover. No. 2 forces down the horns of the extractor. No. 1 clears the face of the extractor, and changes lock. No. 2 depresses the pawls, withdraws the belt and removes the first cartridge in the belt, and then No. 1 closes and locks the front cover and reloads.	(iv) (a) Damaged cartridge grooves. (b) Broken gib spring. (This may also give a No. 1 stoppage.) (c) Broken gib. (d) Thick rimmed cartridge. <i>Note.</i> —The lock removed from the gun should be tested by the No. 2 passing an empty case down face of the extractor.	(iv) Place a dummy with a thick rim as second cartridge in the belt. Proceed to load, easing crank handle forward second time. <i>For Range Purposes.</i> —Damage the rim of a dummy cartridge, and place it in the belt. <i>Notes.</i> — (1) A special dummy can be used, having a thin washer soldered on to the base. (2) This stoppage should seldom be practised on the range, since the thickened rim may damage the grooves of the extractor.
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* In order to do this, it may sometimes be necessary for No. 2 to force down the horns of the extractor.

Position of Crank Handle.	Immediate Action.	Probable Cause.	Prevention of Recurrence.	Method of Preparation.
<p>·IV</p>  <p><i>Indication.</i>—There has been no explosion, or, if any there has been, little or no recoil, the lock remaining in its forward position.</p>	<p>(i) Pull the crank handle on to the roller, pull the belt to the left front and let go the crank handle.</p> <p>(ii) If (i) fails, pull crank handle on to roller twice, change lock and reload.</p>	<p>(i) Defective ammunition.</p> <p>(ii) (a) Broken or damaged firing pin. (b) Broken lock spring.</p>	<p>(iii) Inspect belts.</p>	<p>(i) Load. Press thumbpiece. <i>For Range Purposes.</i>—Insert a dummy in the belt.</p> <p>(ii) Load and press thumbpiece, and on No. 1 applying the immediate action, instructor says, "Gun will not fire." <i>For Range Purposes.</i>—Insert two dummies in the belt.</p> <p>(iii) Press thumb piece. Insert belt in feed block until first cartridge is in line with finger-piece of bottom pawls. <i>For Range Purposes.</i>—Leave a space in the belt.</p>

Note.—Worn or damaged side or extractor levers may result in the extractor being unable to rise, or, if the side levers are bent, there may be either a succession of separated cases, or the lock may become jammed.

SECTION X.—STOPPAGES.

Stoppages in the automatic action of the gun may be classed under two main headings:—

(i) Temporary, which are due to:

- Failure of some part of the gun of which a spare is carried.
- Faulty ammunition.
- Neglect of points before or during firing.
- Ignorance on part of the gun team.

(ii) Prolonged, which are due to failure of some part which cannot, as a rule, be put right by the team under fire or without skilled assistance. These necessarily put the gun out of action for a more or less prolonged period.

On the knowledge and training of the team depends the rapidity with which "temporary" stoppages can be overcome.

PREPARATION OF STOPPAGES FOR INSTRUCTIONAL PURPOSES.

In order that the men may attain a high standard of training in dealing with stoppages, it is essential that the instructor should prepare the stoppages accurately in order that the correct immediate action may be applied by the No. 1.

General Instructions.

- Setting up stoppages should not be taught to the private soldier, unless he is likely to become an instructor.
- The squad should be seated on the right side of the gun, so that the crank handle may be visible and the actions of the instructor more clearly seen.

3. The instructor should detail a member of his squad to perform the immediate action for each stoppage when prepared.

4. A target will be indicated to the squad at the beginning of instruction.

KIT REQUIRED.

- (a) Gun and tripod.
- (b) Belt and dummy cartridges.
- (c) Bulged dummy.
- (d) Dummy cartridge with prepared thick rim.
- (e) Front portion of a separated case.
- (f) Spare parts case.
- (g) Covering for crank handle.
- (h) Landscape target.

STOPPAGES NOT INCLUDED IN I.A. TABLE AND PREPARATION FOR INSTRUCTIONAL PURPOSES.

The causes of prolonged stoppages are so varied that they cannot be set out in detail. The following are, however, of importance, and should be known by all men of the section.

Parts of the Lock Damaged (no spare parts being available).—The gun will fire single shots without sear, or if the bents of the sear or firing pin are badly worn or broken off, but this can only be done by pressing and releasing the thumbpiece quickly.

The gun will also fire "rapid" without the sear, but only for a short period, when the firing pin will probably be broken.

The gun will fire if the nose of the trigger or bent of the tumbler is badly worn or broken off, but the firing cannot be

controlled by the thumbpiece. In this case the gun will fire the instant the crank handle reaches the check lever, although the thumbpiece has not been pressed, or, if the defect occurs during firing, the gun will not cease firing when pressure on the thumbpiece has been released. To remedy this, firing should be stopped by throwing the filled end of the belt over the breech casing to the left. If this results in a third position stoppage, No. 1 will hold the crank handle in his right hand and open the front cover. No. 2 will press down the horns of the extractor. No. 1 will then close the front cover and pull the crank handle on to the roller, while No. 2 will remove the belt from the feed block, until the first round is level with the belt box. No. 1 will then let the crank handle fly forward on to the check lever, to fire the round on the face of the extractor. The lock can now be changed with safety. On no account should the crank handle be allowed to fly forward until the belt has been removed from the feed block.

If a fourth position stoppage is the result, No. 2 will remove the belt as before. No. 1 will then pull the crank handle on to the roller, and allow it to fly forward on the check lever, when the live round, which may be on the face of the extractor, will be fired.

The lock can now be changed with safety.

If no spare lock is available the gun can be worked as follows :

- (a) Group the cartridges in the belt, say 20 or 30 rounds in each group.
- (b) Lay the gun before commencing to load, pull the crank handle on to the roller, pull the belt to the left and let the crank handle go; repeat, but, before allowing the crank handle to reach

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the check lever and the gun to fire, grip the rear crosspiece with the left hand, to control the gun in the ordinary way.

Preparation.—Give order "Load." As soon as the crank handle touches the check lever for the second time, say "Gun Firing." Or, if it is desirable to simulate this happening during firing, after the command "Cease Fire," and directly No. 1 releases his pressure from the thumbpiece, say "Gun still firing."

Broken Fuzee Spring or Fuzee.—The gun will stop firing and the crank handle will be found to be resting on the roller.

To remedy proceed as follows:—

Return the crank handle to the check lever, remove the fuzee spring box and spring. Remove the spring from the adjusting screw. (If fuzee is broken remove it from its seating.) Re-assemble new spring or fuzee, replace fuzee spring and box, reload, relay and open fire.

Preparation.—Perform half loading motions. Remove fuzee spring box and spring. Replace fuzee spring box with spring detached from the fuzee. Pull crank handle on to the roller, pull belt to the left front.

Broken Muzzle Cup.—A stoppage in the third position is the most probable result of a broken muzzle cup. The slide will be found to be very free. No. 1 will then pull the crank handle on to the roller, clear the face of the extractor, hang the lock, and say "muzzle cup." No. 2 will release the belt from the pawls and withdraw it until the cartridges are clear of the feed block. He will then remove the outer casing of the muzzle attachment, remove any broken fragments, put

on a new muzzle cup, and replace the outer casing. If no spare muzzle cup is available, the outer casing will be replaced, and No. 1 will lighten the fuzee spring to about 3 lbs. He will then reload, relay and open fire.

If the crank handle should stop in the first position, a broken muzzle cup can be detected as follows:—

On performing the immediate action, the crank handle may stop in the third position. If, however, the broken fragments have fallen out of the outer casing, a succession of stoppages in the first position will probably result.

If the crank handle stops in the second position, the lock probably cannot be raised until the recoiling portions have been permitted to move forward by the removal of the outer casing. No. 1 must exercise great care to ensure that the crank handle is held back while the outer casing is being removed by No. 2.

Preparation.—Perform half the loading motions. Hang the lock. Draw back the recoiling portions with right hand, and insert a small pad into the outer casing of the muzzle attachment to hold the recoiling portions in the position required. Draw back the crank handle on to the roller and ease it forward.

Summary of Causes of Stoppages.—

First position ... Weak charge.

Weak or broken gib spring.

*Too heavy fuzee spring.

*Want of oil, or grit in working parts.

*Excessive packing.

*Worn barrel.

*Tight pockets in belt.

*Friction due to frozen oil or water.

Second	...	...	Damaged cartridge. Separated case.
Third	...	...	Cross-fed cartridge. *Friction on lock. Bent long brass strip. Badly filled belt. Torn or worn belt. Loose pockets in belt. Belt box not in line with feed block. Damaged cartridge grooves. Broken gib spring Broken gib. Thick rimmed cartridge.
Fourth	...	...	Empty pocket in belt. Defective ammunition. Broken or damaged firing pin. Broken lock spring.
Special	...	...	Broken muzzle cup. Broken fuze spring. Nose of trigger or bent of tumbler worn or broken.

NOTE.—Recurring stoppages are starred thus *.

SECTION XI.—MACHINE, FILLING BELTS, MAXIM, 303-INCH GUN (MARK II).—(PLATE IX.)

Description.—The belt filling machine is designed to place the cartridges expeditiously and evenly in the ammunition belts, and is constructed so that it may be readily clamped on to the most convenient place.

The chief parts are the bed plate, pocket opener, removable crank handle with fixing pin and chain, crank, connecting rod, cam bar, hopper, traversing gear, hinged loading tray and hinged leg.

(In the Mark I machine the crank handle is not made removable; also the loading tray and leg are not made to fold in the centre).

Weight of machine complete with hopper ... 19 lbs.

Weight of loading tray and leg ... 4½ lbs.

Instructions for Use.—The machine must be fixed so that the crank handle can be worked with the right hand. The loading tray and leg should be unfolded. Make the leg rigid by turning up the keeper plate on to the pin catch, and secure the loading tray to the left of the bed plate by means of the pin, which is attached by a chain to the loading tray. Turn the steel guide plate on the bed plate outwards; see that the pocket opener is back far enough to clear the belt; place the belt behind the roller and into the belt guide, the projecting end of the belt to be touching the side of the guide, the projecting end of the long brass strips to point away from the cartridge plunger and to pass under the steel guide. The pawl lies on the top of the belt. Turn the steel guide plate into position again, and draw the belt through with the left hand,

until the first pocket is opposite the pocket opener. Fill the hopper with cartridges, and replenish as required. On the crank handle being revolved, the pocket opener will enter the first pocket and open it; on the motion being continued, the pocket opener will be withdrawn, and the cartridge plunger will push the lowest cartridge into the pocket; the pawl will then feed the belt along, and these motions will be repeated until the belt is filled.

A light pressure should be kept on the belt with the left hand until the weight of the filled portion of the belt is sufficient to assist the pawl. The angle of inclination of the loading tray is an important factor in this, and requires careful adjustment.

N.B.—Great care should be taken to see that the pocket opener enters the pocket each time, otherwise it may pierce and spoil the belt. On this account the crank handle should be held lightly and not turned too fast. In the event of the plunger not pushing the cartridge far enough into the belt, the machine must be sent to the armourer to have an additional piece soldered to the plunger.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR REPLACING BROKEN PAWL LEVER SPRING.

1. Remove the fixing pin and axis pin of the traversing arm.
2. Remove the fixing pin and axis pin of the pawl.
3. Replace the spring, taking care to place the longer arm of the spring towards the pawl.

NOTE.—The pawl should be turned over whilst the spring is being replaced into position.

4. Replace the pawl axis pin.
5. Replace the traversing arm axis pin.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR REPLACING BROKEN ACTION LEVER SPRING.

1. Remove the fixing pin and axis pin of the traversing arm.
2. Remove fixing pin, collar, and traversing arm.
3. Replace a new spring on the seating, the bent arm on the traversing arm, the straight arm of the spring not to be placed in front of the screwed stud. (The small screwdriver is useful for pressing the straight arm of the spring into position.)

NOTE.—When the spring becomes weak, the straight arm should be placed in position as described above, the stud should then be removed, the spring pressed into position and the stud replaced whilst still pressing the straight arm of the spring in front of the stud seating.

4. Replace the collar and fixing pin.
5. Replace the axis pin and fixing pin of the traversing arm.

SECTION XII.—EXAMINATION OF MACHINE GUNS, TRIPODS, &c.

Kit Required.—(1) Gun and tripod. (2) Spare parts complete. (3) Spare barrel. (4) Belt boxes and belts.

General Remarks.—1. It is important that not only should machine guns, &c., be examined when first taken over, but examination of guns and tripods is frequently necessary. The gun and tripod should be examined daily, as stated in "Care and Cleaning," Sect. XIII, and a more detailed examination should be made occasionally, as required.

2. The methods and sequence of instruction will be the

same as for all other subjects, whenever the sub-head being dealt with permits, e.g. :—

- (1) Demonstration.
- (2) Explanation.
- (3) Imitation.
- (4) Interrogation.

POINTS FOR EXAMINATION.—*Muzzle attachment (outer casing).*
Disc clean and in good condition, free from burrs and fouling.

Muzzle Cup.—(i) Clean and free from rust. (ii) Head of clamping screw not burred. (iii) No sign of flaws.

Foresight.—Blade in good condition.

Steam Tube.—(i) Keeper screw in correct position. (ii) Free movement of the slide valve. This can be ascertained by giving the gun a rocking motion, when the movement of the valve should be distinctly heard.

Front Cover Catch.—See that it works correctly.

Tangent Sight.—(i) Top edge and “U” of the slide in good condition. (ii) Free working of the slide. (iii) Top and bottom screws securely fixed. (iv) Fixed sight in good condition.

Rear Cover Lock.—(i) Automatic fastening of the rear cover when lowered. (ii) Cover lock screwed axis pin fully screwed home.

Safety Catch.—Automatic action of spring and catch.

Firing Lever.—(i) See that the firing lever cannot be pressed home unless the safety catch is raised. (ii) See that the trigger is released before the firing lever bears against the stop on the safety catch, when the latter is raised.

Trigger Bar and Spring.—See that the spring sends the

trigger bar forward quickly. Inspect trigger bar for roughness and burrs.

Fuzee Spring and Fuzee.—(i) Claws of spring in good condition. (ii) Threads of the adjusting screw in good order. (iii) Vice pin not bent. (iv) Correct weight. (To weigh and adjust, see “Repairs and Adjustments,” Sect. XIII.) (v) Fuzee and chain in good condition.

Recoiling Portions.—Remove fuzee spring, and work the recoiling portions backwards and forwards; if the recoiling portions move freely (for weight, see “Repairs and Adjustments,” Sect. XIII) they are correct. If not, look for the following :—

- (a) Too tight packing.
- (b) Dented side of the breech casin and consequent bearing on the side-plates.
- (c) Slightly bent or damaged side-plates.

Connecting Rod.—Examine as detailed in “Repairs and Adjustments,” Sect. XIII.

Lock.—

- (a) *Side and Extractor Levers.*—(i) Remove feed block, and keep the front cover raised. (ii) Draw back the crank handle, and let it go slowly forward on to the check lever. (iii) If correct, the extractor should now be in its highest position.

- (b) *Bents of Sear and Firing Pin.*—(i) Pull crank handle on to roller (ii) Press the thumbpiece and, while maintaining pressure, let the crank handle go slowly forward on to the check lever. (iii) The extractor should be kept up to its highest point before the sear releases the firing pin.

- (c) *Extractor*.—(i) Examine the face for burrs and flaws. (ii) Try the grooves with the armourer's dummy to see if the cartridge would be held horizontally.
- (d) *Nose of Trigger and Bent of Tumbler*.—(i) Remove lock. (ii) Cock the lock. (iii) Release the sear; the firing pin should now be held back.
- (e) *Firing Pin*.—See that the point is not broken. A broken firing pin can be recognised without stripping the lock by releasing the lock spring with the extractor up. If correct the firing pin will then protrude from the firing pin hole, and can be withdrawn by raising the tail of the tumbler. If it does not protrude, or, if protruding, the point is not withdrawn when the tail of the tumbler is raised, some part of the firing pin is broken.
- (f) *Lock Spring*.—Test weight as follows:—(i) Fully cock the lock. (ii) Place bottom of the lock on a flat surface. (iii) Place the loop of the spring balance over the side lever head and left hand on the top of the lock. (iv) Draw the side lever head upwards with the spring balance, when the balance should record about 14 lb.

Feed Block.—(1) Examine the stud for burrs and flaws. (2) Split keeper pin in position. (3) Free working of the slide. (4) Pawls and pawl spring in good condition. (5) Cartridge guides not burred.

Sliding Shutter.—(1) The sliding shutter should not require any undue effort to move it by hand. If it does, look for:—

- (a) Dirt or grit

- (b) Dented bottom plate, probably due to the dropping of the connecting rod on it when the lock is out of the gun.

- (2) See that the catch and spring work automatically.

Barrel.—For daily examination, use the mirror reflector, but the only certain way is to examine the barrel with the naked eye. The barrel should be carefully examined for rust, cuts, erosion, nickelling, cord wear and bulges. Proceed as follows:—

- (1) Remove the barrel from the gun.
- (2) First with the eye close to the breech, then with eye some inches back from the breech, examine the bore, rotating the barrel slowly. Carefully examine the lead to see if undue erosion has taken place.
- (3) The barrel should now be reversed and examined carefully from muzzle end in a similar manner.

Packing.—Fill the barrel casing with sufficient water to cover the barrel and work the recoiling portions; there should be no leakage.

Axis Pins, &c.—See that all the axis pins are correct; also the chains securing the component parts.

Tripod.—(1) Chains correct. (2) Jamming handles neither bent nor fouling the elevation dial when the all round traverse is performed. (3) Elevating gear not too loose. (4) Centring blocks fixed. (5) Crosshead arm fitting the gun.

Spare Parts.—See correct in number and condition.

Belt Boxes and Belts.—

- (a) *Belt Boxes of Wooden Pattern*.—(i) Clean and

undamaged. (ii) Catches correct. (iii) Carrying straps secure.

(b) *Belt Boxes, Metal Pattern.*—(i) Clean and undamaged. (ii) Release strap secure. (iii) Carrying handles correct.

(c) *Belts.*—(i) Clean. (ii) Brass strips correct. (iii) Not torn or frayed.

SECTION XIII.—REPAIRS AND ADJUSTMENTS.

Kit Required.—Gun and tripod. Spare parts box complete. Parts of an old belt.

General Remarks.—It is necessary that all machine gunners should be able to carry out any of the minor repairs enumerated below. Artificers' services are not always available at a critical moment, and the maintenance of a gun in action under such circumstances entirely depends on the ability of a gunner to carry out minor repairs.

Whenever possible, the subject must be taught in the same method and sequence as other subjects.

Instructions for Fitting Spare Discs for the Muzzle Attachment.—Unscrew the front cone. (In later patterns the end cover must be removed before unscrewing the front cone.) Cut the edge of the disc, driving sufficient metal up to provide a hold for the pliers. Remove the disc and replace it with a new one. In replacing, it may be necessary to tap the disc on to the front cone.

Instructions for Lateral Adjustment of Foresight.—(To be done by marksman gunner.)

The lateral adjustment necessary should be ascertained firing a group on a short range.

N.B.—If a gun is shooting correctly, the point of mean impact will be $\frac{1}{8}$ -in. to the right of the point aimed at.

Perforation of Barrel Casing.—In the event of the barrel casing being pierced by bullets, &c., the gun being thus put out of action, repairs will be carried out locally in accordance with the following methods, to enable the gun again to take its place in the firing line with the least possible delay:—

(a) Temporary "first aid" repairs to be carried out by the gun team.

(b) Semi-permanent repair to be carried out by an armourer when opportunity occurs.

To effect (a) a pad of plasticine, preferably wrapped in a piece of flannelette or cloth to prevent it from being squeezed through the hole or holes, is pressed over the latter and covered with an oiled pad of flannelette. The whole is then bound round with flannelette, folded in two to increase its strength, the flannelette being tied to make it fast. This, whilst not preventing leakage entirely, should do so sufficiently to enable the gun to be kept fit for action.

(b) The jagged edges of each hole should be hammered level with the casing and the casing cleared round the hole. A piece of sheet tin, 0·2-in. thick, sufficient to overlap the hole considerably, should then be shaped, by means of a hammer and a piece of hard wood, to conform to the corrugations of the barrel casing, and to fit evenly over the hole. It should then be soldered in position. This, when done properly, makes a thoroughly sound repair.

The methods described will not remedy a hole in the end cap into which the tubular portion of the casing is screwed.

The following stores are supplied to enable repairs to be carried out:—

For (a):

*Plasticine (in tin boxes) ozs. 6

Per gun, Maxim
and Vickers, to
be carried in the
spare parts case.

Section 13 C.

Flannelette, 4-in. wide ... yds. 8

For (b):

Section 3.

Tin, sheet, DXX, 17-in.

by 12½-in. ... sheet 10

Per ordnance dépôt.

Section 7.

Shears, tinman's, snip pair 1

Instructions for Removing a Barrel which is Bulged in Front of the Gland.—Remove the outer casing of the muzzle attachment from the gland, and the muzzle cup from the barrel, and with "File, regular cut, 12-in." (supplied to the armourer) file off the enlarged portion produced by the bulge. Remove the barrel and replace by a new one; re-assemble muzzle cup and the outer casing of the muzzle attachment.

To Replace a Broken Tangent Sight Slide Spring.†—Remove the fixing screw of the milled head casing; remove milled head casing and spring; insert a new spring by placing the nib of the spring into the slot in the interior of the milled head casing; replace the milled head casing and fixing screw.

* Luting will in future be used and demanded for temporary repairs to the barrel casing instead of plasticine.

† Not applicable to the Mark II slide.

NOTE.—It is much quicker to change the slide complete by removing the top keeper screw and running it off the stem.

Instructions for Weighing and Adjusting the Fuzee Spring.—

With the spring balance, proceed as follows: Take out the lock, place the loop of the spring balance over the knob of the crank handle, and, standing on the left side of the gun, press down the check lever with the left hand. Pull the balance vertically upwards, resting the wrist on the breech casing; the reading indicated, when the crank handle begins to move will be the weight of the fuzee spring. This weight should be between 7 and 9 lbs. If the spring is over or not up to weight, adjust by means of the vice pin; generally six clicks (three revolutions) make a difference of about 1 lb. Turning the vice pin upwards decreases the weight, and *vice versa*. The tension of the fuzee spring should always be kept as high as possible, consistent with maintaining the normal rate of fire of 500 rounds per minute.

Instructions for Weighing the Recoiling Portions.—(1) [Remove the fuzee spring; (2) place the crank handle nearly vertical; (3) place loop of spring balance over the right end of the crank shaft and pull slowly to the rear; (4) weight should not exceed 4 lbs.

Instructions for Testing the Length of the Connecting Rod.—

(1) Remove the fuzee spring; (2) place the crank handle nearly vertical; (3) place washer No. 1 on outer facing of the adjusting nut; (4) replace the lock, keeping it in the rear position; (5) insert on the extractor an armourer's dummy over the firing pin hole, from the underside of the breech casing, and lift the extractor up to its highest point; (6) see that the barrel is home, turn the crank handle towards

the check lever, and guide the armourer's dummy into the chamber; (7) push the check lever back clear of the crank handle.* If the connecting rod is correct for length a check will be felt before the crank handle reaches the check lever; if no check is felt, proceed as in instructions for adjusting the length of the connecting rod. Care must be exercised that the pressure necessary to release the sear is not mistaken for the check that should be felt.

On service a live cartridge can always be used in place of an armourer's dummy, providing the muzzle of the gun is always directed to give safety to our own troops.

During home service, a live round (if a dummy is not available from artificer) can be used on any of the ranges designed for ball firing.

Instructions for Adjusting the Length of the Connecting Rod.—Determine the number of Nos. 1 or 2 washers (or both, as the case may be) required to make the length correct by first placing a No. 1 on the outer face of the adjusting nut on the connecting rod, replacing the lock and re-testing the length, adding the washers and again re-testing as may be necessary. When the correct length has been determined the washers, which have been placed on the outer face of the adjusting nut, must be assembled permanently on to the shoulder of the connecting rod and be secured by the nut. In order to do this turn the connecting rod back on to the trigger bar lever, then with the combination tool unscrew and remove the adjusting nut; place the washers on the connecting rod and screw the adjusting nut tightly home on to the washers. Re-test the connecting rod to ensure that the adjustment is correct.

* This is only necessary with the old pattern of check lever with a spring.

NOTE.—(1) Care should be taken to see that any washer or washers which may have been assembled previously are replaced in the wallet.

(2) If a succession of separated cases occur on service during actual firing, the lock should be changed, and if still no satisfactory result is obtained, the Nos. 1 and 2 washers should be placed over the adjusting nut as a temporary measure.

(3) The adjustment of the connecting rod should be effected in action by two washers, but subsequently, when time permits, single washers should be used, if necessary, to secure fine adjustments.

Instructions for the Renewal of Packing.—To renew the packing at the breech end of the barrel. Should the gun leak at the breech, empty the barrel casing. Draw out the recoiling portions. Wind a strand of asbestos (part of a 5 yards piece) in the cannellure of the barrel, pressing it together with a thin piece of wood or the point of a screwdriver or knife, until the cannellure is full, then oil the asbestos, smooth it down flush with the barrel and reassemble the parts.

To renew the packing at the muzzle end of the barrel. Should the gun leak at the muzzle, stand the gun on the rear crosspiece, remove the muzzle attachment and unscrew the gland. Repack, or, if necessary, replace the asbestos, having first oiled it, by winding it loosely round the barrel, and whilst winding, push it in with punch No. 3, a piece of wood, or any blunt-ended instrument which will fit; screw on the gland, as tightly as can be done by hand, return the gun to a horizontal position, hang the lock, and work the recoiling portions backwards and forwards to ensure that they move freely. If the packing is found to press too hard on

the barrel, the gland should be removed and one or two strands taken out of the asbestos.

Lock Repairs.—To replace any part of the lock, the ordinary sequence for stripping the lock must be followed, until the required part is reached.

In the case of a lock spring, where the broken portions fall clear, a new lock spring may be assembled without stripping the lock.

When replacing parts other than the extractor, gib or gib spring, the extractor need not be removed.

Instructions for Use of the Tool for Repairing Belts.—Remove the damaged strips and eyelets. If a long strip requires fitting, first join the two faces of the strip as follows. Place an eyelet in the hole of the dished end. Insert the punch of the tool into the unopened end of the eyelet, the opened end to rest upon the die, and gently press the handles together. Then put the punch in the other end of the eyelet, and press the handles. Keep the strip horizontal, move the handles of the tool backwards and forwards in a circular direction, with the punch of the tool as the centre, so as to shape the head of the eyelet.

Put the strips into position on the belt, insert the eyelet, and repeat the above operation.

Short strips are fitted in a similar manner, except that they do not require to be joined at one end previous to their being placed on the belt.

Care must be taken to press the eyelets as far through the strips as possible before using the tool.

To Repair a Torn Belt.—If badly torn, cut out the torn portion, and sew or rivet together the good ends, and cover with the brass strips. The cutting of the belt should be done

in such a manner as to ensure that the repair to the top portion of the webbing does not coincide with the repair to the bottom portion.

Adjustments to Tripod.—(1) All errors due to play in joint pins and elevating gear are gradual, and should be attended to when opportunity occurs. To remedy play in joint pins, paper or thin cardboard washers will be found effective as an expedient.

(2) Play in the elevating gear may be corrected by tightening up the jamming bolt in the tumbler. As, however, it often happens that this bolt is already screwed up as tight as it will go, it will be necessary to remove the pointer of the elevation dial; this will allow a further tightening up of about $\frac{3}{32}$ of an inch. Either dispense with the pointer for the time being, or substitute a piece of cardboard to act as a temporary measure.

The pointer can be filed down by an artificer when an opportunity occurs, and replaced.

(3) See that the direction dial is so fitted as to ensure that the crosshead bears on the socket, and not on the dial, and have any defects in this respect immediately remedied by an artificer.

(4) When the jamming block is loose or when the screw protrudes and damages the crosshead cone, the repair should be carried out by an artificer.

(5) Elevation dial screws are burred to prevent loss. If, therefore, the dial becomes loose, the mounting should be taken to an artificer to be refitted.

SECTION XIV.—RANGE TABLE FOR MARK VII AMMUNITION.

Muzzle velocity with Mark VII ammunition ... 2440/s.
 Weight of bullet ... 174 grains.
 Weight of charge, cordite ... 38 „

Range.			Angle of Elevation.		
Yards.	Degrees.	Minutes.	Yards.	Degrees.	Minutes.
100	—	3	1,600	2	35
200	—	7	1,700	2	57
300	—	11.5	1,800	3	21
400	—	16.5	1,900	3	47.5
500	—	22	2,000	4	16.5
600	—	28	2,100	4	48
700	—	35	2,200	5	22.5
800	—	43	2,300	6	—
900	—	52	2,400	6	41.5
1,000	1	2	2,500	7	27
1,100	1	13.5	2,600	8	16.5
1,200	1	26.5	2,700	9	11
1,300	1	41	2,800	10	10.5
1,400	1	57	2,900	11	15
1,500	2	15			

When firing Mark VI ammunition from a gun sighted for Mark VII, up to 600 yards an addition of 200 yards should be made to the observed range. Above that distance 250 yards should be added. The results should in all cases be checked by observation.

SECTION XV.—WAGON, { FORE, MARK I. LIMBERED, G.S. { HIND, MARK II.

The wagon consists of fore and hind portions, connected by a perch, mounted on wheels, 2nd class C, No. 200 A or 206. A certain number of wagons have been issued with 2nd class C, No. 43, and some with No. 198 wheels.

The fore portion consists of a framework, fitted with side and front boards and a hinged tail board, a limber hook, No. 27, a 2nd class C axletree, No. 141, and the following draught fittings:—

Pole, draught, No. 17, Mark III.

Bar supporting draught pole, No. 3, Mark II.

Swingletrees, No. 13, Mark I.

A locker—fitted to carry spare parts, &c., as shown in the table below—is attached outside the near side board. Two clips for the carriage of a rifle in canvas case are fitted to the front board and two on the off side board.

The hind portion is generally similar to the fore, but it has no locker, or clips for rifles, is fitted with a removable perch (in place of fittings for draught), a folding seat at the back and a brake which is applied from the rear and acts on the front of the wheels.

Fittings (with suitable lashings) are provided on the perch and front board to carry a spare wheel, and under the wagon to enable a spare pole (No. 18) to be carried.

Both portions are provided with a canvas cover.

The wagon is fitted to carry the following spare and wagon equipment stores.

Stores.	Fore.	Hind.	Where carried.
Grease, lubricating (in grease box) ... lb.	3	3	} Off side.
Spanner, No. 184* ... ..	...	1
Blocks, brake, field and transport (spare) ...	2	...	
Board, inventory, wood	1	...	
Collar, adjusting, 2nd class C, capped wheels (spare) ...	1	...	} Locker, near side.
Screwdriver, G.S., 6-inch... ..	1	...	
Hammer, claw, 16 or 14-oz.	1	...	
Pincers, carpenters' pair	1	...	
Pins, linch, 2nd class C, capped wheels (spare) ...	1	...	} Near side Under.
Spanner, adjustable, 11-inch	1	...	
Washer, drag, 2nd class C, capped wheels (spare) ...	1	...	
Brush, water carriage	1	...	
Buckets, water, G.S., leather	2	...	} Near side Off side.
Cordage, spun yarn, hemp, tarred, 3 thread lb.	5	...	
Ropes, drag, light, G.S. pair	1	...	} As convenient.
Valise, horse shoes (1)	...	...

* Component of wagon.—Wagons provided with No. 43 wheels carry a No. 93 spanner.

The following are the dimensions, weights, &c. :—

Fore and hind portions limbered up—		ft. ins.
Length over all—with pole ... ..	...	22 10
without pole ... ..	...	13 9
Height ... ..	...	4 8
Width ... ..	...	5 2
Track ... ..	...	6 4
Distance between axletrees ... ..	...	7 10½

Diameter of turning circles ... ..	...	...	ft. ins.
Angle of lock	85.75 degrees.		25 8½
Floor space, each portion	4 ft. by 3 ft. 4 ins.		
Fore portion—			ft. ins.
Length—with pole ... ..	...	...	13 11
without pole... ..	...	...	4 10
Hind portion—			
Length—with perch ... ..	...	...	9 1
without perch ... ..	...	...	5 4
Wheel, 2nd class C, No. 198 A., Mark I.—			
Diameter ... ..	...	...	4 8
Width of tire ... ..	...	...	0 2½
Weights without cover and spare parts—			cwts. qrs. lbs.
Fore portion ... ..	...	...	5 2 0
Hind portion ... ..	...	...	5 0 3
Tonnage for shipment—			Tons.
Fore and hind portions without wheels, pole and perch ... ..	...	...	4.201
Wheels, No. 198 A. (4)... ..	...	...	1.458
Pole ... ..	...	...	.032
Perch ... ..	...	...	.017
Boat transport—			
Dimensions—13 ft. 5 in. by 6 ft. 4 in. by 4 ft. 8 in.			
Tonnage ... ..	...	...	9.913

COVERS.

The covers, both "Fore" and "Hind," are of waterproof canvas, $77\frac{1}{2}$ inches by $69\frac{1}{2}$ inches; they are secured to the wagon by 2 lines on each side and straps at the corners.

Weight, each ... 9 lb. 11 oz.

WHEEL, 2ND CLASS "C" No. 198A.

The wheel is 4 ft. 8 ins. in diameter, has a manganese bronze nave with a removable pipe box and a $2\frac{1}{2}$ -inch steel tire. The nave consists of two flanges which are connected by 12 bolts; the pipe box passes through the flanges and is secured by a small bolt; a dust cap is screwed to the outer flange. The outer end of each spoke fits into a steel socket secured to the fellow.

Weight ... 1 cwt. 14 lb.

The Nos. 198 and 206 wheels are generally similar to the above (the No. 206 wheel has a steel nave of a different form). The No. 200 wheel has plain steel flanges and no dust cap. The No. 43 wheel differs principally from the above in being of double spoke construction and has a 3-inch tyre.

The No. 200 A wheel, which is now issued with the wagon, differs from the above (198 A) as follows:—The wheel is stronger in construction, the flanges of the nave are of steel, and there are no sockets spoke.

Weight ... 1 cwt. 2 qrs. 3 lbs.

Any of these wheels may be used with the wagon, limbered, &c.

SECTION XVI.—PACKSADDLERY.

1. INTRODUCTORY.

It is desirable that animals for machine gun packsaddlery purposes should be carefully selected. Those with abnormally broad hips, or with the points of the hips very prominent, should not be chosen.

There are two methods of carriage on packsaddles for this machine gun:—

1. When used with cavalry machine gun squadrons,
2. When used with infantry machine gun companies.

In both methods the sets of packsaddlery comprise certain articles of general service packsaddlery, supplemented by other articles of machine gun packsaddlery, either common to both methods of carriage, or special to either.

The composition of cavalry or infantry sets are as shown in the tables which follow; those for infantry showing the requirements when all the equipment is carried on pack, as also when the normal method of carriage is in limbered wagons with a certain percentage of packsaddlery for emergency carriage.

A description of the articles comprising the several sets, as also instructions for assembling and loading, are given.

Load tables, accompanied by plates to illustrate such loads, are also appended.

2. DETAIL OF SETS.

(A) CAVALRY.

Description.	Number of each		
	Gun set.	1st Ammuni- tion set.	2nd Ammuni- tion set.
<i>Section No. 2A.</i>			
Ropes, head, hemp, with ring ...	1	1	1
<i>Section No. 5B.</i>			
PACKSADDLERY, G.S.			
Bits, bridoon ...	1	1	1
Breechings, Mark V ...	1	1	1
Collars, breast, Mark V ...	1	1	1
Collars, head, Mark IV ...	1	1	1
Cruppers, Mark V ...	1	1	1
Girths, Mark V ...	2	2	2
Girths, leather ...	—	1	1
Pannels, Mark V ... pairs	1	1	1
Straps, girth, Mark II ...	4	4	4
PACKSADDLERY, M.G., .303-INCH.			
Boxes, water ...	—	1	—
Caps, shovel Mark II* ...	—	2	2
Hangers, gun, sling, cavalry ...	1	—	—
Hangers, tripod, sling, cavalry ...	1	—	—
Racks, boxes, ammunition in belt, Mark III ...	—	2	2
Slings, boxes, ammunition in belt, cavalry (b) ...	1	—	—
Sticks, leading ...	1	—	—
Straps, detachable, pick and helve ...	—	—	2

(b) Without gun rests.

Detail of Sets—continued.

(A) CAVALRY—continued.

Description.	Number of each		
	Gun set.	1st Ammuni- tion set.	2nd Ammuni- tion set.
<i>Section No. 5B—cont.</i>			
PACKSADDLERY, M.G., .303-INCH— cont.			
Straps, detachable, shovel ...	—	2	2
Straps, suspending, shoe case ...	1	—	1
Trees, adjustable, Vickers' gun, cavalry, Mark II ...	1	1(b)	1(b)
Trees, adjustable, Vickers' gun, rests	—	1(c)	1(c)
<i>Section No. 6A.</i>			
SADDLERY, UNIVERSAL.			
Cases, horseshoe, with sword frog, Mark II ...	1*	1*	1*
Reins, bit ...	1	1	1

(b) Without gun rests.

(c) Ready for affixing regimentally to packsaddle-tree, if and when required.

Or cases, horseshoe, modified (H.P.D.G.S.).

Detail of Sets—*continued.*

(B) INFANTRY.

(for infantry machine gun companies whose equipment is carried on pack.)

Description.	Number for each		
	Gun set.	Tripod set.	Ammunition set.
<i>Section No. 5A.</i>			
HARNESS, P.D.G.S.			
Cases, horseshoe	1	1	1
<i>Section No. 5B.</i>			
PACKSADDLERY, G.S.			
Bits, bridoon	1	1	1
Breechings, Mark V	1	1	1
Chains, collar, G.S., Mark IV... ..	1	1	1
Collars, breast, Mark V	1	1	1
Collars, head, Mark IV	1	1	1
Cruppers, Mark V	1	1	1
Girths, leather	—	—	1
Girths, Mark V	2	2	2
Pannels, Mark V pairs	1	1	1
Reins, bridoon	1	1	1
Straps, girth, Mark II... ..	4	4	4
Trees, adjustable	1	1	1

Detail of Sets—*continued.*(B) INFANTRY—*continued.*

Description.	Number for each		
	Gun set.	Tripod set.	Ammunition set.
<i>Section No. 5B—cont.</i>			
PACKSADDLERY, M.G., *303-INCH.			
Bands, belly	1	1	—
Bands, belly, straps, long	1	1	—
Bands, belly, straps, short	1	1	—
Bands, belly, straps, supporting	2	2	—
Bottles, water, leather	—	1	—
Caps, shovel, Mark II*	1	1	—
Frames, wood, Mark II	—	1	—
Hangers, gun, sling	1	—	—
Hangers, tripod, sling	—	1	—
Racks, boxes, ammunition in belt,			
Infantry pattern	1	1	2
Straps—			
Detachable, pick and helve... ..	—	3	—
Detachable, shovel	1	1	—
Detachable, water bottle	—	2	—

Detail of Sets—*continued.*

(C) INFANTRY (ABBREVIATED SCALE).

(for infantry machine gun companies whose normal method of carriage is in limbered wagons, but who are also issued with a percentage of packsaddlery for emergencies.)

Description.	Number per		
	Gun set.	Ammuni- tion set.	Remarks.
<i>Section No. 5A.</i>			
HARNESS, P.D. G.S.			
Cases, horse-shoe ...	1	1	
<i>Section No. 5B.</i>			
PACKSADDLERY, G.S.			
Breechings, Mark V ...	1	1	
Chains, collar, G.S., Mark IV...	1	1	
Collars, breast, Mark V ...	1	1	
Cruppers, Mark V ...	1	1	
Girths, leather ...	—	1	
Girths, Mark V ...	2	2	
Pannels, Mark V ... pairs	1	1	
Straps, girth, Mark II ...	4	4	
Trees, adjustable ...	1	1	
PACKSADDLERY, M.G., 303-INCH.			
Bands, belly ...	1	—	
Bands, belly, straps, long ...	1	—	
Bands, belly, straps, short ...	1	—	
Bands, belly straps, supporting	2	—	

Detail of Sets—*continued.*(C) INFANTRY (ABBREVIATED SCALE)—*continued.*

Description.	Number per		
	Gun set.	Ammuni- tion set.	Remarks.
<i>Section No. 5B—cont.</i>			
PACKSADDLERY, M.G., 303-INCH—cont.			
Hangers, gun, sling ...	1	—	Used for tripod.
Hangers, tripod, sling ...	1	—	Used for gun.
Racks, boxes, ammunition in belt, Infantry pattern ...	—	2	
Petrol tin (for water) ...	1	—	To be obtained locally.
Straps, securing petrol tin ...	1	—	Wagon strap from vehicle to be utilised.

3. DESCRIPTION.

(a) *Articles common to both cavalry and infantry sets.**Case, horseshoe.*

For cavalry sets, either the horseshoe case issued with universal saddlery, or the pattern formerly used for harness purposes, modified by the removal of the link from the back and the release of the strap with the chape (the latter being reduced in width to the size of the strap) are used.

For infantry the pattern formerly used for harness purposes (unmodified) is utilised.

Bit, bridoon.

Is an ordinary bridoon bit, but tinned to prevent rust. The mouthpiece is fitted at each end with a ring to receive the iron stops on the reins when the ordinary packsaddlery reins are used, or for universal saddlery reins to buckle to. The "T" pieces are secured to the rings by links and solid loops, and are for fitting under the leather loops on the packsaddlery head collar.

Breeching, Mark V.

Is used for preventing the packsaddle from slipping forward. The straps buckle to the body part of the breeching after being looped to the links on the pannels. It is supported by its hip strap, which passes through a loop on the crupper before buckling.

Collar, breast, Mark V.

Is used to prevent the load from slipping back. The straps, after passing through the links on the pannels, buckle to the body part of the breast collar. It is supported by its own neckstrap.

Collar, head, Mark IV.

Similar in design to the universal saddlery head collar, but the furniture is tinned iron, and it is fitted on the lower part of the headpiece with leather loops for the "T" of the bridoon bit to fit into, and with a ring on the noseband.

Crupper, Mark V.

Is made with forked straps, which, after being looped to the rear arch of the packsaddle, buckle to the body of the crupper. The use of the crupper is to assist in preventing the saddle slipping forward.

Girths, Mark V.

Girths are made of worsted web. They are fitted with chapes and buckles at either end to connect up with the girth straps. These girths have no connecting piece as in earlier patterns, but may be crossed when girthing up if desired.

Girth, leather.

Is a leather steadying girth, with a billet and buckle at each end. It can be lengthened by the "strap, extending."

Pannels, Mark V.

Each pannel consists of a leather back, with tan dowlas lining, the stuffing being horsehair. They are attached to the side bars by leather pockets, the front pocket having a strap and buckle for securing purposes. An opening in the outer side admits of adjustment of the stuffing, the opening being covered by a flap.

Pannels are fitted with links to take the straps of the Mark V breast collar or breeching—the hooks attached to such links are intended for the chains of earlier marks.

The stuffing can be adjusted as required and kept in position by additional spot stitches if necessary.

Straps, girth, Mark II.

Are for buckling the packsaddle girths to. They are of leather, and made with a loop at one end.

Caps, Shovel, Mark II.

Is a leather cap, made to fit on the pan of the G.S. shovel. It has a detachable strap (apart from the "Strap, shovel," which do not form part of the cap), which is used for securing it.

*Straps, detachable.**Pick and helve; shovel.*

Are for use with the articles shown in the "Details of Sets" applicable to the arm (Cavalry or Infantry) concerned.

The "*Straps, pick and helve*" are for suspending the articles in question as part of the load.

The "*Strap, shovel*" retains the handle of the shovel against the rear arch of the packsaddle.

*(b) Articles special to cavalry sets.**Boxes, water.*

Is a metal lined box. Externally it is of the dimensions of an ammunition belt box, in order that it may be carried in the ammunition rack. It is fitted with a metal funnel, which, when not in use acts as a screw stopper to prevent loss of water.

It holds four quarts of water. The word "Water" is painted on either side.

Hangers, gun, sling, cavalry.

Consists of:—

- (1) A front suspending pad with strapping, fitted at one end with a ring to attach to the near front hook of the packsaddle, and at the other end with a buckle to connect up with the V-sling attachment alluded to at (3).
- (2) A rear suspending pad with strapping, fitted similarly to the pad at (1). This rear pad, however, differs in shape, and is much thicker in substance for the greater part.

- (3) A V-sling attachment, consisting of two straps, each carrying a sliding cranked link, with eye, and sewn to a triangular roller buckle. The ends of these straps connect to the buckles of the front and rear suspending pads.

This attachment is interchangeable with that used for the tripod hanger.

Hangers, tripod, sling, cavalry.

Is similar in principle to the gun hanger, but differs in the following respects as regards details:—

- (1) There is a front suspending strap instead of a "pad with strapping." This strap is, however, similarly fitted with ring and buckle, as in the case of the pad.
- (2) The rear suspending pad, with strapping, is of equal substance throughout, and the strapping is shorter than that of the gun hanger, or the front suspending strap of the tripod hanger.
- (3) The strap to connect with the triangular buckle is detachable, whereas in the gun hanger it forms part of the gun rest.

Racks, boxes, ammunition in belt, Mark III.

This is a canvas rack strengthened with leather, the body of which is attached directly to a wood bottom. Wire rope slings are provided for suspension purposes, which are spliced round metal thimbles attached to eyebolts, which pass down through the wood bottom and metal plate and are riveted over the nuts.

A wood bearing bar is riveted across the centre of the back to prevent friction on the canvas.

The rack is divided into three compartments, each of which holds one box of ammunition in belt, i.e., 750 rounds in all.

Sling, box, ammunition, in belt, cavalry.

This is a leather cradle, fitted with rings to hook to the off-side of the packsaddle, and with buckles for securing the box; also with adjustment for variation in size of belt boxes.

Sticks, leading.

Is a stick fitted at one end with a billet and buckle, and at the other end with a leather loop. A loop in the centre is also provided for the rein to pass through.

The stick is intended for use with cavalry, to prevent the animal carrying the gun from pressing in on the leg of the rider.

Strap, suspending, shoecase.

The "*Strap, suspending, shoecase*" is an additional strap for the suspension of the "Case, horseshoe, with sword frog," or the "Case, horseshoe, modified," between the arches of the packsaddle.

Tree, adjustable, Vickers' gun, cavalry, Mark II.

The principle of the ordinary General Service adjustable tree is retained, but the alterations and additions as under are made :—

- (1) Extension pieces project beyond the arches, to which are bolted leather-covered brackets to carry the spare barrel in its case, or the pick and helve.
- (2) A connecting bar of $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. steel rod, shouldered in the centre for the extension portion of the gun rest, is fitted between the arches, passing through both the

flange of the extension pieces and the web of the angle of the arches before riveting.

- (3) A gun rest, with extension to the connecting rod, is added. This gun rest is shaped, covered with leather, and fitted with a strap to connect with the V-sling attachment of the gun hanger.

The tree of the gun rest is fitted with this rest when issued, but two additional gun rests with extension and strapping are issued with each complete gun equipment, ready for fitting regimentally to either of the trees on the ammunition horses, if circumstances should necessitate the employment of either of those trees for carriage of the gun.

Reins, bit.

These are of the universal saddlery pattern, and are only issuable for Cavalry Machine Gun Squadrons.

(c) *Articles special to infantry sets.*

Trees, adjustable.

Consists of two steel arches (to which rigid hanging hooks are riveted) connected by side-bars made from padouk or sabicu wood.

The arches are jointed to the side-bars to admit of them turning automatically, thus allowing of adjustment to the backs of large or small animals, or to meet loss of condition, and to obviate the necessity of several sizes.

Metal squares are provided on each arch into which the "Frame, wood, Mark II" can fit when this article is issued.

The side-bars are slotted for the girth straps to loop on.

Bottle, water, leather.

Is made of leather rendered impervious to either air or water. It is fitted at one end with a metal screw stopper attached by a brass chain, which prevents the water coming out after filling. It holds about 5 quarts of water, and, when empty, weighs about $6\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.

Bands, belly.

This belly band is a broad leather girth $52\frac{1}{2}$ ins. in length by 3 ins. in width, fitted at either end with a buckle and fixed leather loop to connect with the "*Straps, long*" and "*Straps, short*," which follow.

Straps, long (or Straps, short).

Are straps fitted at one end with a fixed leather loop. The long strap is 48 ins. by $1\frac{1}{2}$ in., and the short 40 ins. by $1\frac{1}{2}$ in.

Straps, supporting.

These are narrow straps, 13 ins. by $\frac{7}{8}$ in., which prevents the belly band dropping to the ground when the above-mentioned long and short straps are unbuckled to release the load.

Chains, collar, G.S. Mark IV.

Is used for Infantry in place of the headrope. It consists of a length of chain with a bent "eye" link at one end, and a "T" piece at the other. It is also fitted with two cross aperture links for the "T" to pass through as required.

Frame, wood, Mark II.

Is a wood frame with metal fittings underneath to enable it to be attached to the packsaddle by "keying." Straps are permanently affixed to the frame for securing the top load.

Hanger, Gun, Sling.

(Used by Machine Companies on abbreviated scale for the tripod.)

Is designed so that the machine gun may be slung in it to the hooks of the packsaddle.

It consists of a wood bearing bar, added to at the rear end by a wood block which keeps the muzzle away from the animal's hip. Leather slings, felt lined, are attached to the bearing bar, the front sling being wider and longer than that at the rear, in order that the breech of the gun may rest on it. Both slings are fitted at either end with metal dees for hooking to the packsaddle, and the upper dees are provided with strap and buckle for securing both dees after the gun is slung.

Hanger, tripod, sling.

(Used by Machine Gun Companies on abbreviated scale for the gun.)

Is constructed on the same principle as the gun hanger, but is intended for the carriage of the tripod. It differs from the gun hanger in the following respects:—

- (1) The bearing bar is added to at *either* end by wood blocks which extend below it, and keep the tripod sufficiently away from the side of the animal.
- (2) Both slings are of similar width.
- (3) A leather chape carrying a metal square is screwed to the centre of the bearing bar on the upper side for the "girth, leather" to buckle to when required.

Racks, boxes, ammunition in belt, Infantry Pattern.

Consists of a canvas body with wood bottom and rope slings. The body is bound with leather at the lower edge as

wood bottom at its outside edges. No partitions are arranged, but a shaped metal plate is inserted at each corner in order to strengthen them and define the shape at the top.

The rack is suspended by a rope sling at either end, which passes under the bottom and outside the ends. A metal square is attached to the wood bottom for the leather girth to attach to, and holes are made for drainage purposes.

Straps, detachable, waterbottle.

To be looped to the bearing bar of the tripod hanger by passing them down behind, and then through their own fixed loops.

Reins, bridoon.

The rein is made from Preller leather. It is fitted at each end with a tinned iron stop to connect with the rings of the bit.

4. TO ASSEMBLE THE PARTS.

(a) GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS.

PACKSADDLE.

Note.—The front arch of the packsaddle tree is narrower than the hind arch.

The *tree* is the frame of the packsaddle. The *pannels* are attached to the tree by means of front and rear pockets, into which the side-bars are inserted. The front pockets are fitted with buckles and straps for securing purposes.

The *girth straps* are looped to the side-bars over the upper edge, through the slots cut for the purpose.

The *girths* are buckled to the girth straps on the off-side in readiness for use.

saddle and then buckled to the body of the crupper.

Bit, bridoon.

The *bridoon bit* at one end may be passed through the leather loop on the off-side of the head collar in readiness for "bitting" the animal.

Breechings; Collars, breast.

The straps of the breeching are first looped to the links on the pannels and then buckled to the body part of the breeching. The straps of the breast collar, after passing through the loops of the pannels, are buckled to the body part of the breast collar.

(b) INSTRUCTIONS SPECIAL TO CAVALRY SETS.

Packsaddle.

Place the strap portion of the gun rest down through the slot in the "lay" of the near side pannel, through its own two sliding loops, then through the fixed loop on the under-side of the gun rest.

Gun hanger.

Suspend to the hooks of the packsaddle on the near side by the rings at the back of the pads. (*Note.*—The smaller of the two pads is to the front, and the leather loop above the ring on the larger (rear) pad is hooked on in addition to the ring.) A small leather "tie" should be employed to fasten the front ring of the sling to the front hook of the tree, to prevent it jolting off when the gun is taken off and the led horse is in motion.

Sling, boxes, ammunition in belt.

Suspend to the hooks of the packsaddle on the off-side by the rings, the girth straps being unfastened and then buckled over, the horizontal fixed straps forming the back of the sling. This prevents the sling moving.

Tripod hanger.

This is placed on after the sling above mentioned. It is suspended to the same hooks as the sling, but the front ring is placed *behind* the front ring of the sling, this method preventing any possibility of the rings jolting off when the tripod is taken off, and the pack horse has to move away rapidly. (Note.—There is only one pad with the tripod hanger, and this is at the rear. A small leather tie should be employed to fasten the rear ring of the hanger to the rear hook of the tree.) The detachable strap is looped to the slot in the “lay” of the off pannel, and then placed through the triangular buckle of the V-sling attachment.

Detachable straps for shovel.

Loop to the links of the pannels of the 1st and 2nd ammunition packsaddles.

Condenser bag.

Secure round the barrel of the gun by its own strap.

Straps, suspending, shoe-case.

Place through the fold of the shoe-case ready for attaching to the arch of the packsaddle.

(c) INSTRUCTIONS SPECIAL TO INFANTRY SETS.

Bands, belly, straps, long.

To be looped to the bearing bar of the gun hanger on the gun set, and the tripod hanger on the tripod set, by passing

up behind the bearing bars of the respective hangers, and then through their own fixed loops, the loops remaining at the upper edge of the bearing bars.

Bands, belly, straps, short.

To be looped to the near-side bar of the adjustable tree on the gun set, and the off-side bar of the adjustable tree on the tripod set, in a similar manner to that for the long strap, but the loops are to remain at the lower edge of the side bars.

Bands, belly, straps, supporting.

To be looped up through the slot in the “lay” of the pannel on either side of gun or tripod sets.

The *belly band* is afterwards buckled to these straps, and is supported by them whenever it is released from its long and short straps; it would otherwise drop to the ground.

Straps, detachable, pick and helve.

Looped to the bearing bar of the tripod hanger by passing down behind the bearing bar, and then through their own fixed loops.

Straps, detachable, shovel.

To be looped to the rear arch (near side) of the gun set, and the rear arch (off side) of the tripod set.

Straps, detachable, waterbottle.

To be looped to the bearing bar of the tripod hanger, by passing down behind and then through their own fixed loops.

Saddling.

Before saddling it is essential that the animal's back should be free from dirt, and any dried sweat or matted hair brushed out. The pannels should be thoroughly dried, beaten, and freed from any dirt or grit before being placed on the

animal's back. Neglect of these precautions is the most fertile source of sore backs. Constant attention must be paid to the stuffing of the pannels, and care taken to prevent them from becoming hard and lumpy.

When possible, animals should not be kept standing longer than is necessary when saddled and loaded.

If a saddle has shifted, do not try to push it into a better position; off-load, off-saddle, and re-saddle properly.

Do not allow men to hang their rifles or equipment on the loads, or hold on to them on the march.

Girths may, if wished, be crossed under the animal's belly, and this method is often useful when there is a tendency for the girths to slip. When the girths are fastened the buckles should rest on the lower edges of the pannels, as this will prevent buckle galls.

The breeching and breast collar should be so fitted that movement of the animal is not impeded. Constant rubbing of either of these articles, when fitted too tightly, must inevitably cause galls.

The crupper requires careful fitting, as otherwise the animal's dock will be galled. A good rough guide is to arrange that the breadth of the hand will pass between the body of the breeching and the body of the crupper.

The bridoon bit should hang low enough to prevent the corners of the animal's mouth from being wrinkled.

5. LOADING.

The detail and arrangement of the loads are as shown in the tables for cavalry and infantry respectively, which follow.

They should be considered more in the nature of a guide than as definite instructions, owing to the necessity of adapting the loads to suit local conditions.

LOAD TABLES.
CAVALRY.

Off side.	lbs.	Top load.	lbs.	Near side.	lbs.
Tripod (less crosshead) ...	33	Gun Horse.	3½	Gun (with water chamber filled, and tripod crosshead attached)...	53
Box (with ammunition) ...	21	Shoe-case (filled)	5½	Condenser bag	2
Hanger, tripod, sling, cavalry ...	3½	Spare barrel and cleaning rod in case	...	Hanger, gun, sling, cavalry ...	4
Nose bag (with feed) ...	8	...	...	Nose bag (with feed) ...	8
Sling, boxes, ammunition in belt, cavalry ...	2	Total	9	Total ...	67
Total ...	67½				

Recapitulation of Weights

Load, off side	lbs.
Load, near side	67½
Top load	67
	9
Grand total	143½

LOAD TABLES—continued.

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Off side.	lbs.	Top load.	lbs.	Near side.	lbs.
1st AMMUNITION HORSE.					
3 boxes, ammunition in belt (filled) ...	63	Shoe-case (filled) ...	3½	2 boxes, ammunition in belt (filled) ...	42
Rack, boxes, ammunition in belt, Mark III ...	10½			1 box, water (filled) ...	19
Shovel (in cap) ...	5			Shovel (in cap) ...	5
Nose bag (with feed) ...	8			Nose bag (with feed) ...	8
				Rack, boxes, ammunition in belt, Mark III ...	10½
				Case, can oil ...	8
Total ...	86½	Total ...	3½	Total ...	92½

Recapitulation of Weights.

Load, off side	lbs.
Load, near side	86½
Top load	92½
	3½
Grand total	182½

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3 boxes, ammunition in belt (filled) ...	63	2nd AMMUNITION HORSE.	3½	3 boxes, ammunition in belt (filled) ...	63
Rack, boxes, ammunition in belt, Mark III ...	10½	Shoe-case (filled) ...	8	Rack, boxes, ammunition in belt, Mark III ...	10½
Shovel (in cap) ...	5	Pick and helve		Shovel (in cap) ...	5
Nose bag (filled) ...	8			Nose bag (filled) ...	8
Total ...	86½	Total ...	11½	Total ...	86½

Recapitulation of Weights.

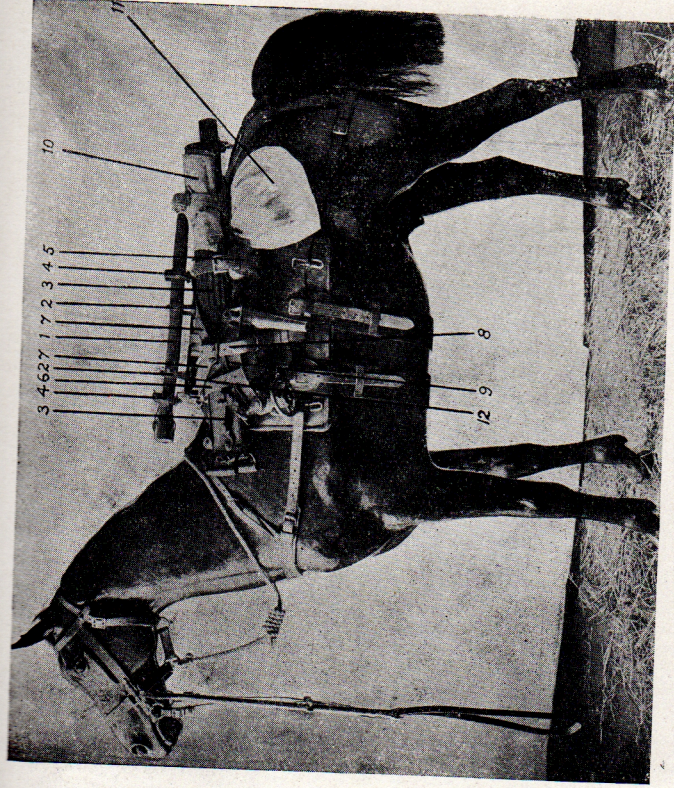
Load, off side	lbs.
Load, near side	86½
Top load	86½
	11½
Grand total	184½

PLATE XIII.
GUN HORSE.

NEAR SIDE.

1. Spare barrel in case, resting in brackets of packsaddle. _____
2. } Straps of spare barrel case buckled to the rod connecting the two arches of the packsaddle. _____
3. } Gun in the gun hanger. _____
4. } Brackets bolted to extension pieces of packsaddle. _____
5. Rear suspending pad of gun hanger. _____
6. Front suspending pad of gun hanger. _____
7. } V-sling of gun hanger. _____
8. Gun rest strap brought through the "lay" of the pannel and engaged with the triangular buckle of the V-sling attachment. _____
9. Crosshead of tripod attached to the gun. _____
10. Condenser bag secured round the barrel of the gun. _____
11. Nosebag suspended from rear arch of the packsaddle. _____
12. Shoe-case, suspended between the front and rear arches of the packsaddle. (For method of suspension see Plate 18.) _____

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(B 13351)

PLATE XIII.

[To face p. 144.]

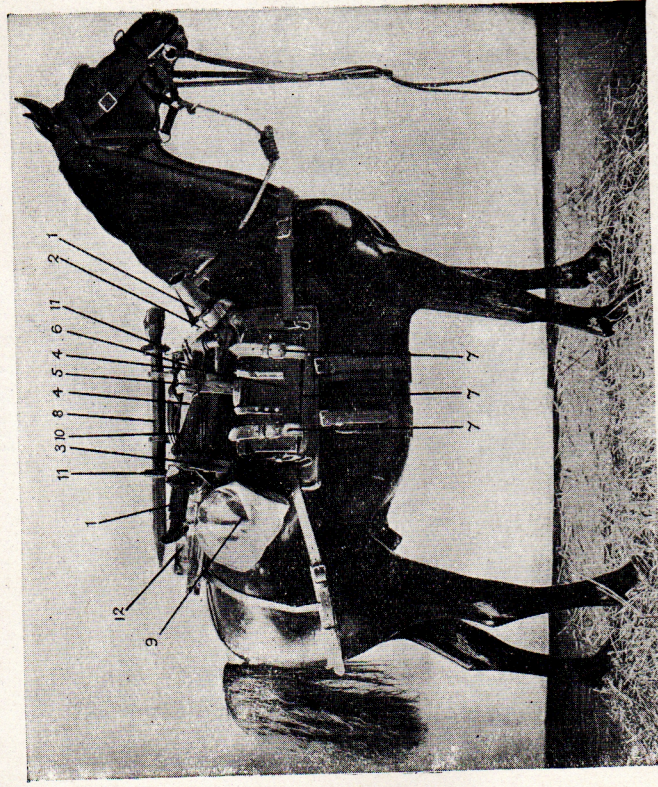


PLATE XIV.

[To face p. 145

(B 13381)

PLATE XIV.
GUN HORSE.

OFF SIDE.

1. } Tripod (without crosshead) in tripod
1. } langer
2. Front suspending strap of tripod
langer.
3. Rear suspending pad of tripod langer.
4. } V-sling attachment of tripod langer.
4. }
5. Detachable strap of tripod langer brought through the "lay" of the pannel and engaged with the triangular buckle of the V-sling attachment.
6. Ammunition box in "sling, box, ammunition in belt, cavalry."
7. } Strapping forming the "sling, box,
7. } ammunition, in belt, cavalry."
7. }
8. Spare barrel in case resting in brackets of packsaddle, with its straps buckled round the rod connecting the two arches of the packsaddle.
9. Nosebag suspended from rear arch of the packsaddle.
10. Shoe-case suspended between the front and rear arches of the packsaddle. (For method of suspension see Plate 18)
11. } Brackets bolted to extension pieces
11. } of the packsaddle.
12. Muzzle of gun as seen from the off side.

PLATE XV

FIRST AMMUNITION HORSE.

NEAR SIDE.

1. "Box, water," in ammunition rack. _____
2. } Ammunition belt boxes in ammunition rack. _____
2. } _____
3. "Rack, boxes, ammunition, in belt, Mark III." _____
4. "Girth, leather," buckled to ammunition rack. _____
5. Shovels in caps. Carried heads upwards and crossed. (For method of crossing see Plate 19.) _____
6. Detachable strap of the shovel cap securing the shovel head to the rear arch of the packsaddle. _____
7. } "Case, can. oil," suspended by its own strap to the brackets of the packsaddle, and hanging behind the top of the boxes in the ammunition rack. _____
7. } _____
8. _____
9. "Strap, detachable, shovel," looped to link on the pannel and then brought round the shovel handle. _____

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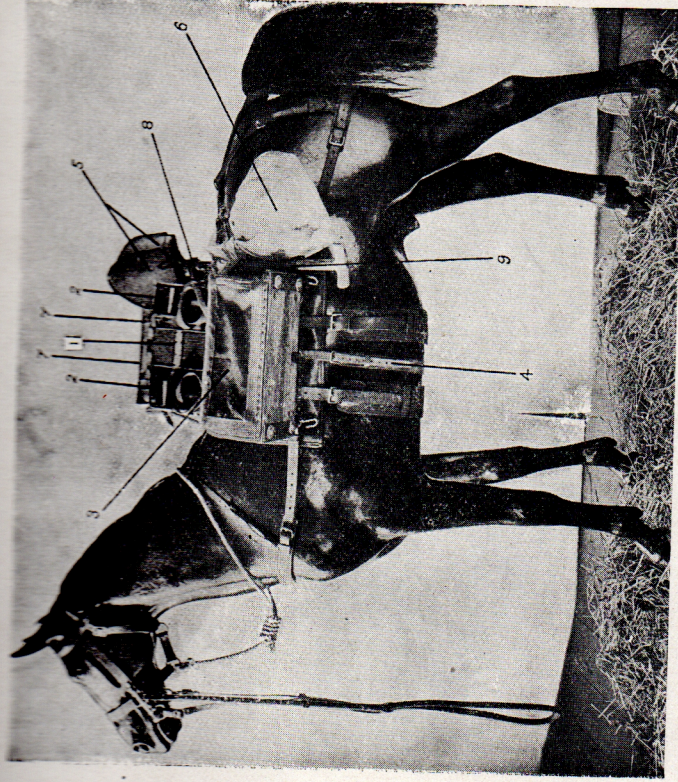


PLATE XV.

[To face p. 146.

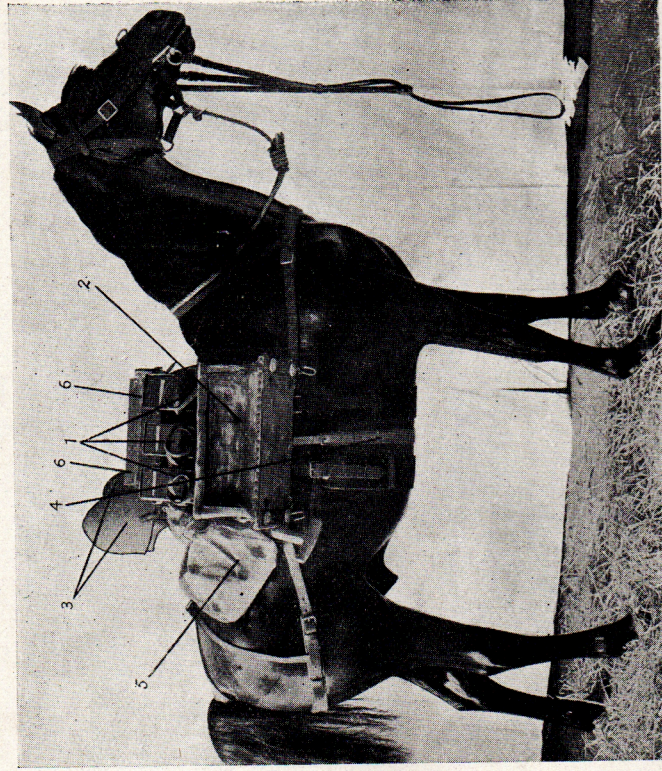


PLATE XVI.

[To face p. 147.

PLATE XVI.

FIRST AMMUNITION HORSE.

— OFF SIDE. —

1. Ammunition boxes in ammunition rack. — 4. "Girth, leather," secured to ammunition rack. —
2. "Rack, boxes, ammunition, in belt Mark III." — 5. Nosebag suspended from rear arch of packsaddle. —
3. Shovels, in caps, carried heads upwards and crossed. (For method of crossing see Plate 19, and for securing, Plate 15.) 6. } "Case, can, oil," as seen from the off side. 6. }

PLATE XVII.

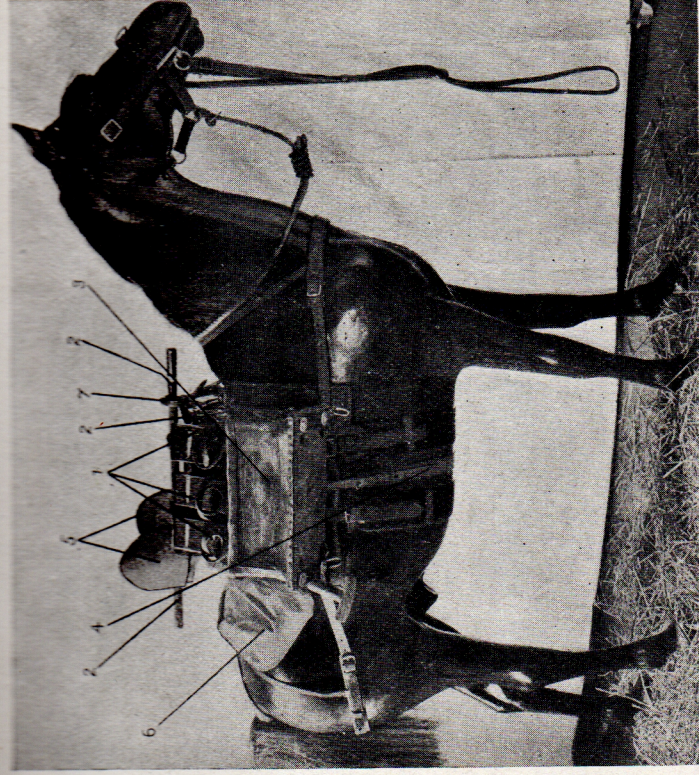
SECOND AMMUNITION HORSE.

—
EITHER SIDE.
—

1. Ammunition boxes in ammunition rack.
2. Helve and pick resting in brackets of packsaddle.
3. "Rack, boxes, ammunition, in belt, Mark III."
4. "Girth, leather," secured to ammunition rack.
5. Shovels in caps. Carried heads upwards and crossed. (For method of crossing see Plate 19, and for securing, Plate 18.)
6. Nosebag suspended from rear arch of the packsaddle.
7. Front bracket bolted to extension piece of packsaddle.

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PLATE XVII.

[To face p. 148.]

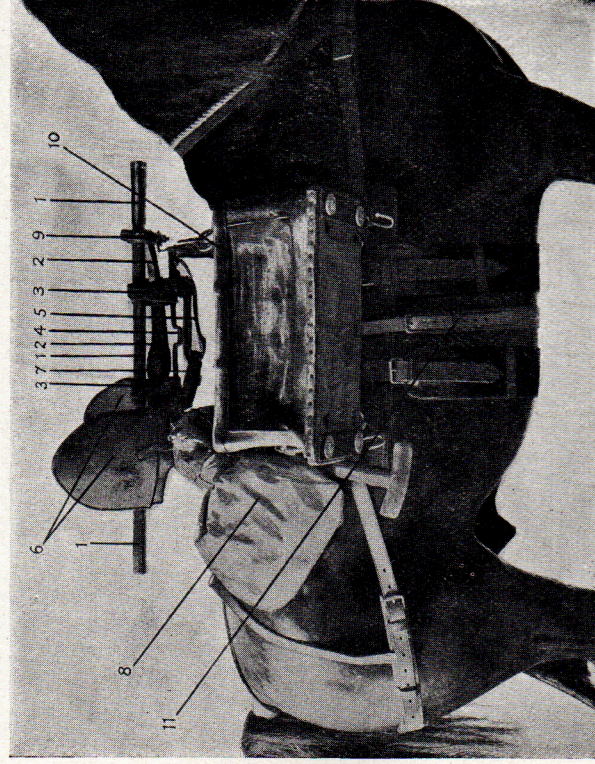


PLATE XVIII.

[To face p. 149.

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PLATE XVIII.

SECOND AMMUNITION HORSE.

Showing method of attaching articles enumerated below.

1. } "Axes, pick, helve" } resting in
1. } brackets of
2. } "Axes, pick, head" } packsaddle.
3. } "Straps, detachable, pick and helve," }
3. } securing the pickhead and helve to }
3. } the rod connecting the front and rear }
3. } arches of the packsaddle.
4. Rod connecting the front and rear arches of the packsaddle.
5. } Shoe-case suspended between the front }
5. } and rear arches of packsaddle. (This }
7. } method obtains also for the gun and }
7. } first ammunition horses.)

6. Shovels, in caps, carried heads upwards and crossed. (For method of crossing see Plate 19, and for securing, Plate 15.)

8. Nosebag suspended from rear arch of the packsaddle.

9. Front bracket bolted to extension piece of the packsaddle.

10. "Back boxes, ammunition, in belt, Mark III," slung to the hooks of the packsaddle.

11. "Girth, leather," buckled to the ammunition rack

PLATE XIX.

Showing method of crossing the shovels over the horse's back.

1. Shovel in the shovel cap, placed in position from the off side.
2. Shovel in the shovel cap, placed in position from the near side.
3. Detachable strap of the shovel cap brought round the handle of the shovel below the "pan" and then secured to the hind arch of the packsaddle. Both shovels are similarly secured.
(See Plate 15 and Page 154 for method of securing the handle to the pannel of the packsaddle.)

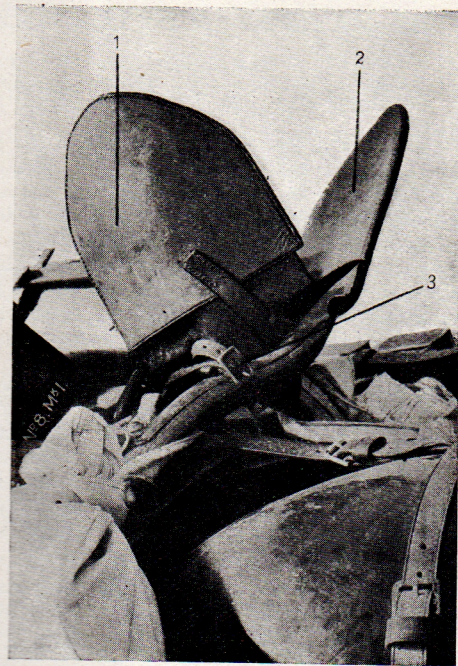


PLATE XIX.

[To face p. 150.]

NOTES ON FOREGOING CAVALRY LOAD TABLES.

Gun Horse.

Gun.—The crosshead of the tripod is carried attached to the gun.

Place the gun with the barrel to the rear in the gun rest, with the crosshead in the position as shown in the illustration (Plate XIII.) Bring the straps of the V-sling attachment up and hook the "cranked links with eyes" (which form part of them) to the hooks of the packsaddle, the straps gripping the gun as also shown in the illustration. (Plate XIII.) Then secure the load by tightly buckling the strap of the gun rest, which is already in position in the triangular buckle. The triangular buckle must be pulled down clear of the vulcanite plug on the barrel casing.

The load can be readily adjusted by means of the buckles which connect the straps of the V-sling attachment to the front and rear suspending pads. Such adjustment will obviously be necessary when the gun hanger is first used.

To unload the gun all that is necessary is to release the triangular buckle, and lift the gun upwards with both hands sufficiently high enough to unhook the "cranked links with eyes." The hanger then falls clear of the gun.

Ammunition Box.—Place the box in the sling, and buckle the two straps. (Plate XIV.)

Tripod.—Rest the tripod on the ammunition box, with the legs to the rear, steadying it with the right hand. The knuckle of the tripod must ride just in front of the front hook of the tree, and the two short legs nearly flat against the saddle. Whilst in this position, hook the "cranked links with eyes"

of the tripod hanger to the hooks of the packsaddle with the left hand. To secure the load, proceed as in the case of the gun.

It is important in order to prevent the possibility of the tripod slipping forward that the straps are placed round the tripod as shown in the illustration. (Plate XIV.)

The remarks regarding adjustment given for the gun apply equally to the tripod.

Spare Barrel.—Place the spare barrel in its case in the brackets on the packsaddle, and secure by buckling its own straps round the bar connecting the arches.

Shoecase.—Suspend between the front and rear arches of the packsaddle, the strap belonging to the shoecase being attached to the rear arch, and the suspending strap to the front arch. The shoecase will then hang below the connecting bar.

Nose Bags.—Two nose bags are carried, slung to the hind arch of the packsaddle, one on either side.

Ammunition Horses.

Ammunition Racks.—The 1st ammunition animal carries two boxes of ammunition in belt on the near side, and three boxes on the offside. The centre compartment of the rack on the near side is filled by the water box.

The 2nd ammunition animal carries three boxes of ammunition in belt in the rack on either side.

The boxes are retained in position by the releasable strap which passes over the top, and the racks are steadied by the "girth leather," which attaches to the links on the underside, (Plates XV, XVI, XVII and XVIII.)

Pick and Helve.—Are carried as a “top” load in the packsaddle brackets on the 2nd ammunition animal. The head of the helve should be to the front, and should not project more than about 6 ins. beyond the front arch. The pick head is carried under the helve, and both are secured by the “straps, detachable, pick and helve,” which before buckling should pass round the bar connecting the arches of the packsaddle.

Shovels.—Are carried by both ammunition animals, one on either side, heads upwards, crossed over the horse's back, and fastened to the rear arch of the packsaddle by the detachable straps of the shovel cap. The handles are fixed to each side of the pannels by the “straps, detachable, shovel,” which are first looped to the links with which the breeching straps connect. (Plate XIX.)

Shoecases.—The shoecases of the 1st and 2nd ammunition animals are carried slung between the arches of the packsaddle, in a similar manner to that for the gun animal.

Nosebags.—Two nosebags are carried by each ammunition animal, slung to the hind arch of either packsaddle, one on each side.

Case, Can, Oil.—Is slung by its own strap to the spare barrel brackets of the packsaddle for 1st ammunition animal, and hangs on the near side.

Ammunition.—The amount of ammunition carried per gun is distributed as under:—

On the gun horse	...	...	250 rounds.
On the 1st ammunition horse	...	1,250	“
On the 2nd ammunition horse	...	1,500	“
Total	...	3,000	“

LOAD TABLES.

Infantry.

(For Infantry Machine Gun Companies whose equipment is carried on pack.)

<i>Gun Horse.</i>		<i>Near side.</i>	<i>Off side.</i>	lbs.
1 rack, boxes, ammunition in belt, Infantry pattern ...	6	containing— 3 belt boxes (filled, 750 rounds ammunition)	Vickers' M.G. (with water chamber filled) ...	44
			Auxiliary light tripod ...	8
			Hanger, gun, sling ...	9
			Condenser bag and tube ...	3
			Spare barrel and cleaning rod ...	7
Shovel (in cap)...	5		Nosebag (with feed) ...	8
Case, horseshoe (filled)	3½			
Total ...	77½		Total ...	79
<i>Recapitulation of Weights.</i>				lbs.
Load, off side	...	...	...	79
Load, near side	...	...	...	77½
Grand Total ...				156½

<i>Tripod Horse.</i>		<i>Near side.</i>	<i>Off side.</i>	lbs.
Tripod, Mark IV. with dial plate ...	53	Hanger, tripod, sling ...	1 rack, boxes, ammunition in belt, Infantry pattern ...	6
			containing— 3 belt boxes (filled, 750 rounds ammunition)	63
			Shovel (in cap) ...	5
			Nosebag (filled) ...	8
			Case, horseshoe (filled)	3½
Bottle, water (filled) ...	21			
Pick and helve ...	8			
Total ...	90		Total ...	85½
<i>Recapitulation of Weights.</i>				lbs.
Load, off side	...	...	...	85½
Load, near side	...	...	...	90
Grand Total ...				175½

Top load.

Frame, wood, Mark II, with box, spare parts and implements. Weight about	lbs.
...	5

Ammunition Horse.

Near side.	lbs.	Off side.	lbs.
1 rack, boxes, ammunition in belt, Infantry pattern... containing—	6	1 rack, boxes, ammunition in belt, Infantry pattern containing—	6
3 belt boxes (filled, 750 rounds ammunition)... ..	63	3 belt boxes (filled, 750 rounds ammunition)	63
	69		69
	—		—

Top load.

Nosebag, with feed	lbs.
Case, horseshoe (filled)	8
	3½
	11½

Recapitulation of Weights.

Load, off side	69
Load, near side	69
Top load	11½
Grand Total	149½

NOTES ON FOREGOING INFANTRY LOAD TABLES.

The *gun* with the light tripod affixed, is placed in the gun hanger (which has previously been suspended to the hooks on the off side of the packsaddle with the wide sling to the rear), and the slings with the load are then hooked up and secured by the small cross straps. (Plate XXI.)

The *condenser* is carried suspended from the rear arch of the packsaddle (off side).

The *spare barrel and cleaning rod* is attached to the under edge of the gun hanger by the two straps of its leather case.

The *shoecases* of the gun and tripod sets are suspended from the rear arch of the packsaddle (off side). The shoe-case for the ammunition set is suspended centrally between the front and rear arches of the packsaddle, so that the link on the back of the shoe-case is facing the rear. The strap passes through the link on the crown of the rear arch before buckling.

The *nosebags* of the gun and tripod sets are suspended from the rear arch of the packsaddle (off side). The nosebag for the ammunition set is suspended centrally between the front and rear arches of the packsaddle by the following method :

The mouth is first secured in the ordinary manner, but without fastening away the spare part of the strap. The nosebag is then suspended, mouth to the front, between the arches of the packsaddle, the spare part of the strap passing through the link on the crown of the front arch, and then back along the top length of the nosebag to the link of the shoe-case, where it is pulled taut and secured. This method will keep the nosebag fast and steady, as also the shoe-case away from the animal's hind quarters.

The *ammunition racks* are suspended by their rings to the hooks of the packsaddle on the side shown in the load table. (Plate XXIV.)

The *shovel* is secured by the strap of the shovel cap which buckles to the breeching strap where looped to the pannel, and by the detachable shovel strap which have previously been affixed to the rear arch.

The "*tripod, Mark IV*," is carried in a similar manner to that detailed for the Cavalry load.

The *waterbottle* is suspended by the detachable waterbottle

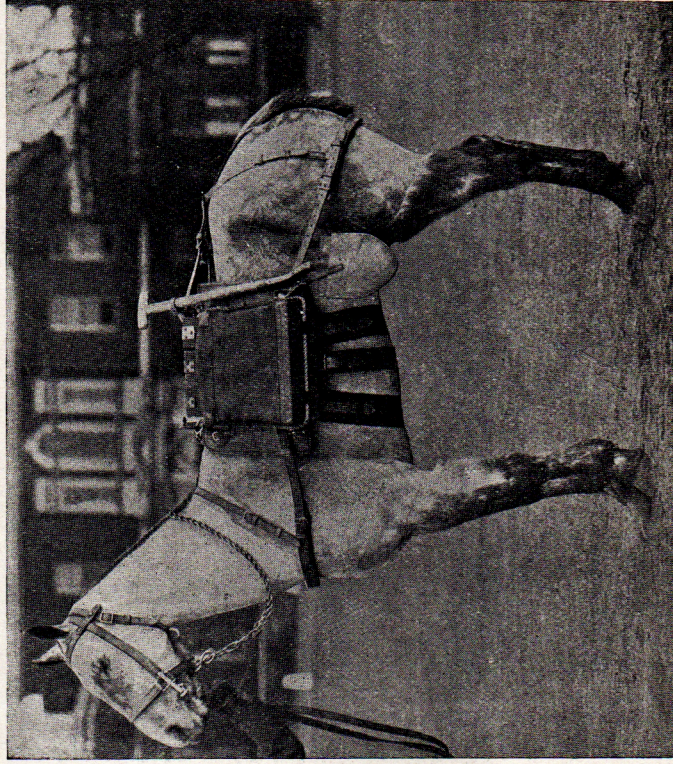


PLATE XX.

INFANTRY.—GUN HORSE, NEAR SIDE.

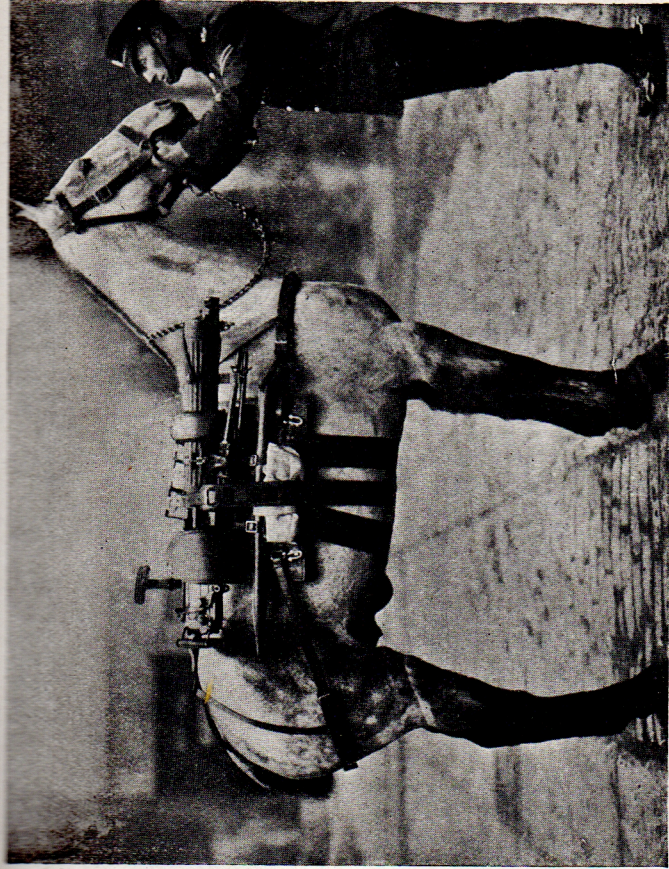


PLATE XXI

INFANTRY.—GUN HORSE, OFF SIDE

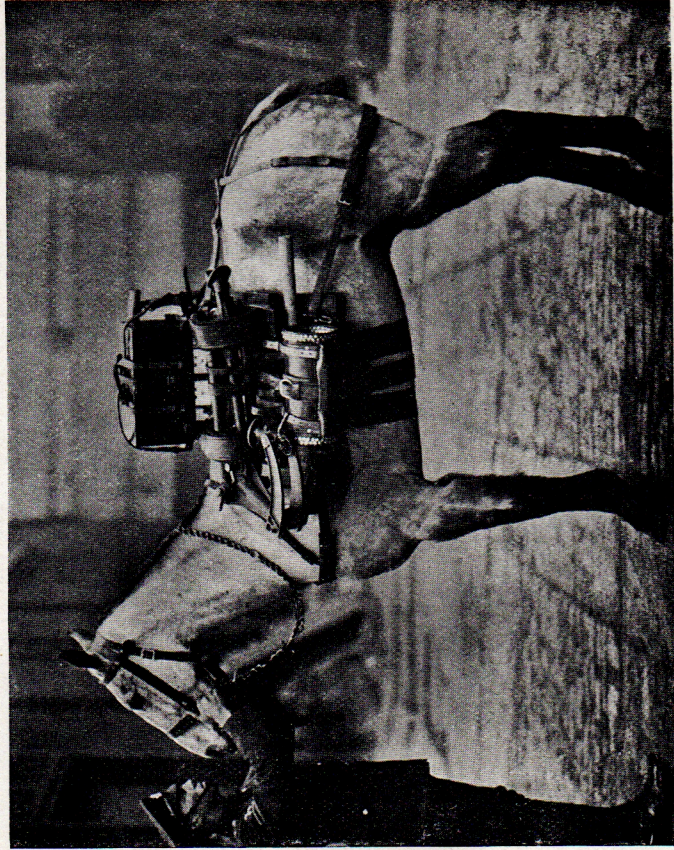


PLATE XXII.

INFANTRY.—TRIPOD HORSE, NEAR SIDE.



PLATE XXIII.

INFANTRY.—TRIPOD HORSE, OFF SIDE.



PLATE XXIV.
INFANTRY.—AMMUNITION HORSE, EITHER SIDE.

straps (which have been previously affixed). in a similar manner to that for the Cavalry load. (Plate XXII.)

The *pick and helve* are secured by detachable pick and helve straps previously affixed, the helve being arranged as much as possible in front of the pick. The centre of the three straps passes through and round the aperture in the pick head before buckling.

The *box, spare parts and implements* is carried on the "Frame, wood, Mark II," which is fitted on to the top of the packsaddle tree.

The loads are secured as follows :—

Gun load.—By the belly band and its two straps. The straps in question have already been affixed. The long strap passes over the gun between the barrel casing and feed block, and the short strap through the metal link on the underside of the ammunition rack ; in both cases before buckling to the belly band.

Tripod load.—Also kept in position by the belly band and its two straps, which have already been affixed. The long strap passes round the leg and through the aperture at the top of the rear leg of the tripod, and the short strap through the metal link on the underside of the ammunition rack ; in both cases before buckling to the belly band.

Ammunition load.—By the "girth, leather," which buckles at each end to the metal links on the underside of the ammunition racks.

LOAD TABLES.

Infantry.
(For Infantry Machine Gun Companies whose equipment is normally carried in limbered wagons.)

It is most essential that the weights be kept as equal as possible on each side. If, for example, the nosebag be empty or the barrel casing be not full of water, or some belt boxes have been emptied, these facts should be taken into consideration and weights adjusted accordingly.

The schedule below shows the weights of the different articles, some of which can be moved to the centre or to the opposite side to equalise the balance of the load.

Near side.	lbs.	Gun Pack Centre.	lbs.	Off side.	lbs.
Tripod	53	Water	19	Gun, with water chamber (filled)	44
Hanger, gun, sling	9	Water, bucket	1	Hanger, tripod, sling	8
Nosebag (with feed)	8	Case, horseshoe (filled)	3	Auxiliary tripod	8
				Spare parts case	8
				Cleaning rod	1
Total	70	Total	23	Total	69

<i>Recapitulation of Weights.</i>					lbs.
Near side	...	...	...	...	70
Centre	...	...	...	...	23
Off side	...	...	...	...	69
Packsaddle and blanket	...	...	...	...	34
					196

AMMUNITION PACK.

Near side.	lbs.	Centre.	lbs.	Off side.	lbs.
3 boxes, ammunition in belt	63	Case, can, oil	8	3 boxes ammunition in belt	63
Rack, boxes, ammunition in belt (Infantry pattern)	6	Canvas bucket	1	Rack, boxes, ammunition in belt (Infantry pattern)	6
		Nosebag (filled)	8		
		Case, horseshoe (filled)	3		
		Condenser tube and bag	3		
Total	69	Total	23	Total	69

Recapitulation of Weights.

	lbs.
Near side	69
Centre	23
Off side	69
Packsaddle and blanket	34
	195

Packsaddlery Plates.

No. 25 plate.—This plate shows the "Gun Pack" as observed from the near side. It should be noted how the strap on the tripod leg is given two turns round the rear sling of the hanger before buckling, also the twist given to the supporting strap round one of the tripod legs, to obtain a firm purchase.

The position of the nosebag is clearly demonstrated, the strap of the bag being passed through the front girth, above the wooden hanger bar.

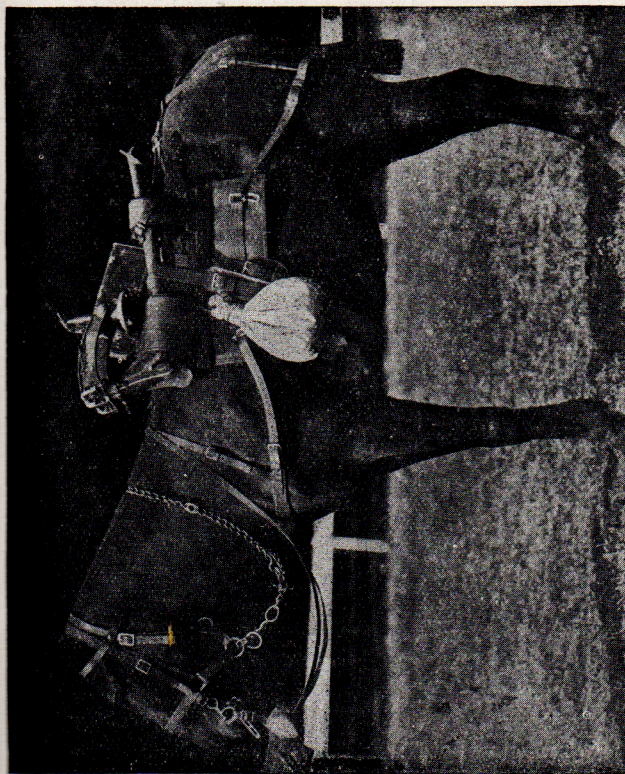
No. 26 plate.—"Gun Pack" observed from the off side.

The above diagram shows the position for the gun, i.e., the feed block lying under the front sling and the rear sling being passed between the Auxiliary tripod and the gun. Both ends of the spare parts case strap are passed behind the front hook and through the front arch of the packsaddle before buckling, which prevents the case working forward.

No. 27 plate.—"Gun pack" from rear.

The feet of the short tripod legs are seen gripped in the centre of the rear sling. The strap on the tripod legs can be seen passed through the metal "D" on the hanger; the "Box, water," is strapped to the rear arch of the saddle by a wagon strap. The cleaning rod can be observed protruding through the leather slings on the off side, where the slings hold the metal rings.

No. 28 plate.—This plate shows the ammunition pack, as per drill pamphlet. The oil can case can be seen strapped between the front and rear arches of the saddle on the off side.



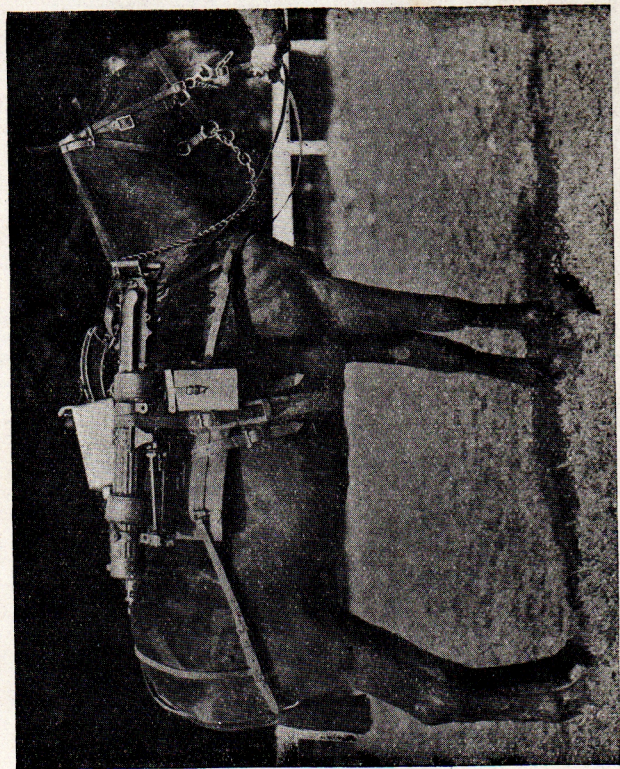


PLATE XXVI.

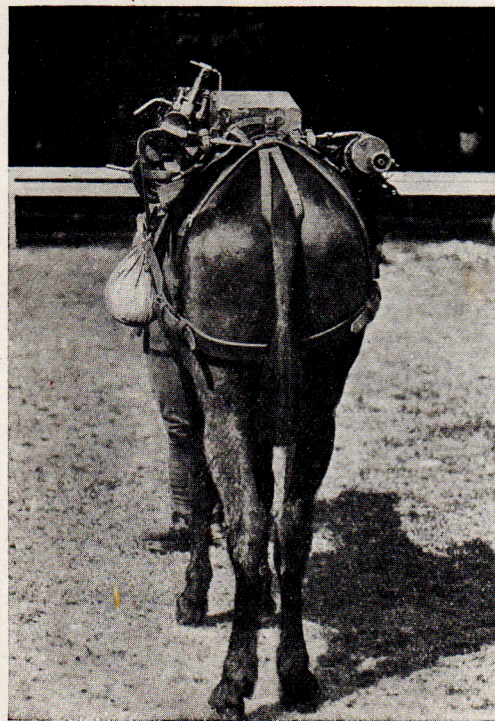
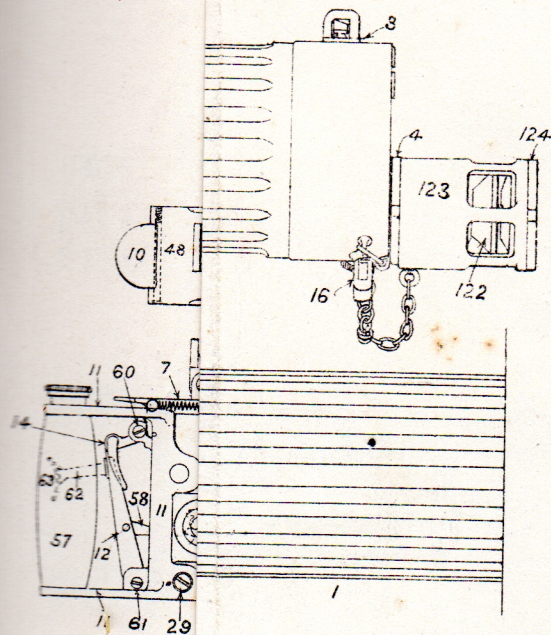


PLATE XXVII.



PLATE XXVIII.



7528.W504. P.P.1970.1

Malby & Sons.Lith.

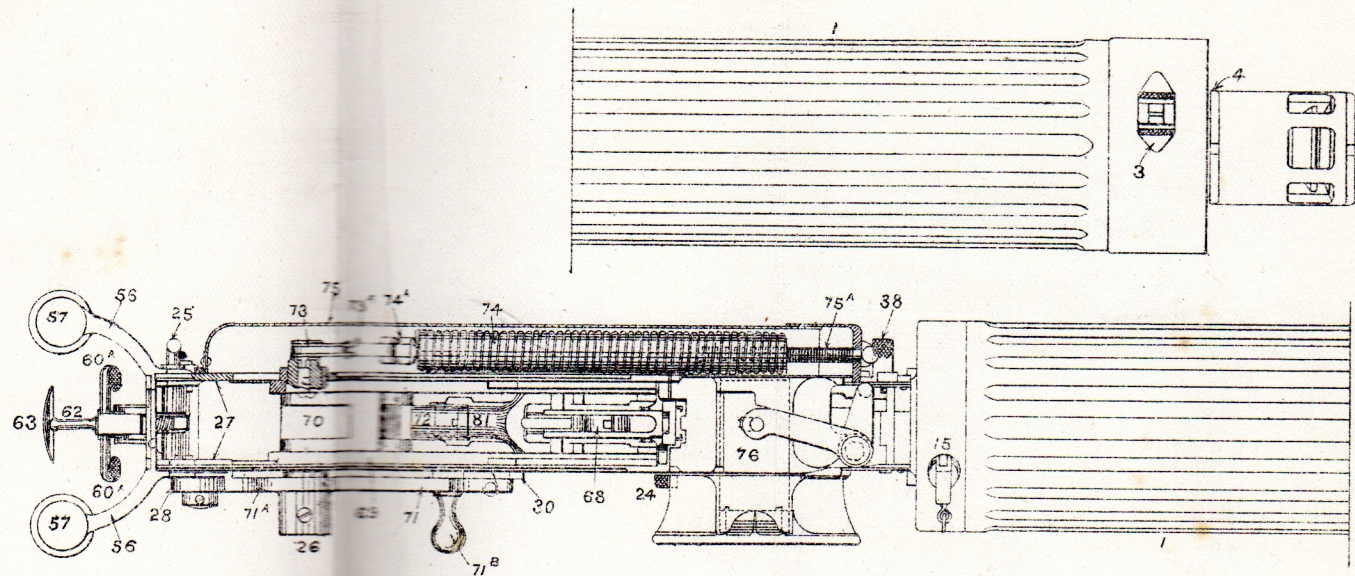


Plate II.

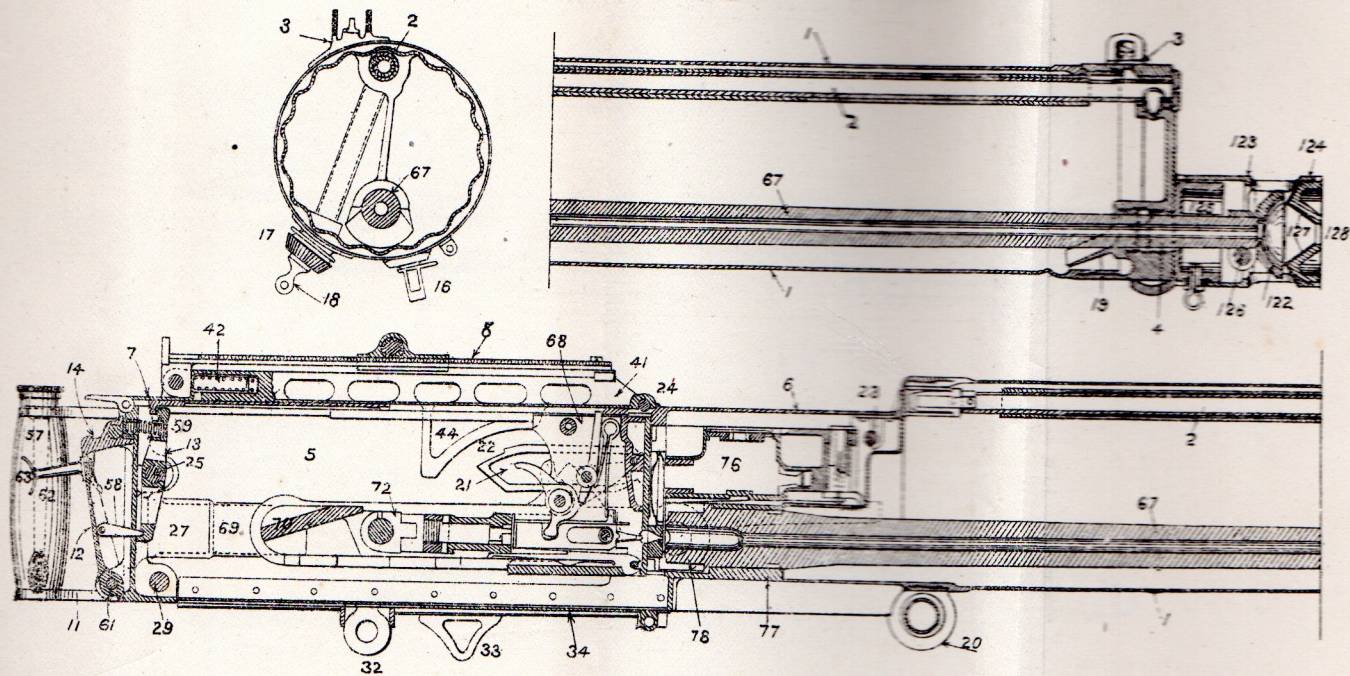


Plate III.

RECOILING PORTION OF GUN.

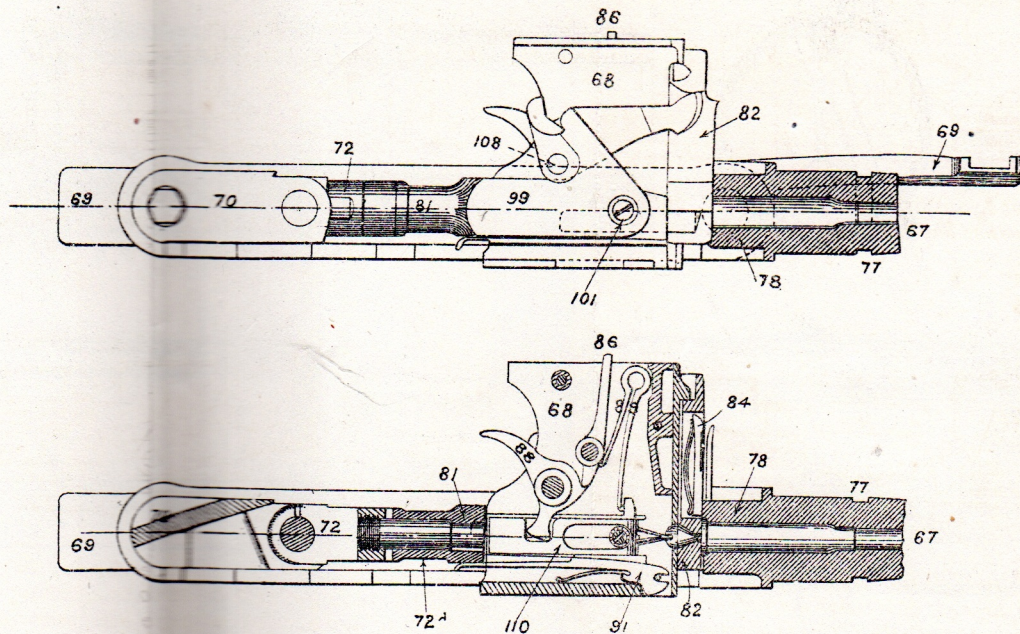
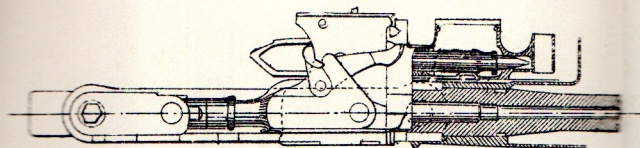
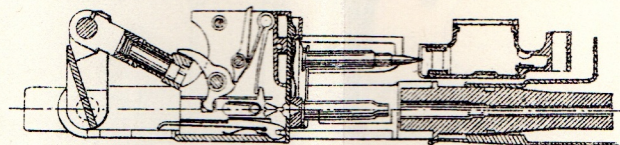


Plate IV.

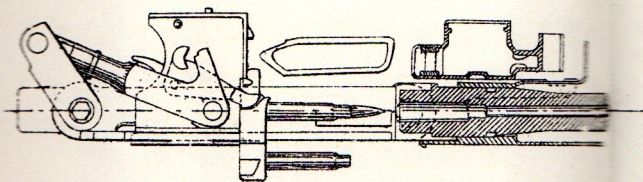
WORKING POSITIONS OF LOCK.



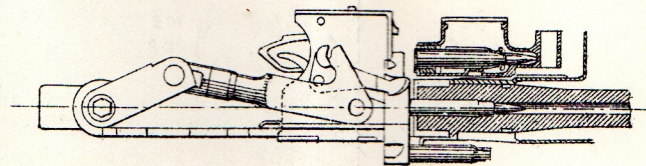
Lock fully home and just fired. Extractor engaging with empty case in chamber and cartridge in feed block.



Lock and barrel recoiling. Extractor withdrawing empty case from chamber and a cartridge from the feed block. firing pin cocked and safety sear engaging.



Lock in nearly fully recoiled position. Barrel returning. Extractor down, brings cartridge in line with chamber and empty case either falls off or is pushed off when extractor rises.



Lock returning, barrel home, extractor being raised by levers, leaving empty case to be ejected, cartridge in chamber, and about to engage with another in the feed block

PARTS OF THE LOCK.

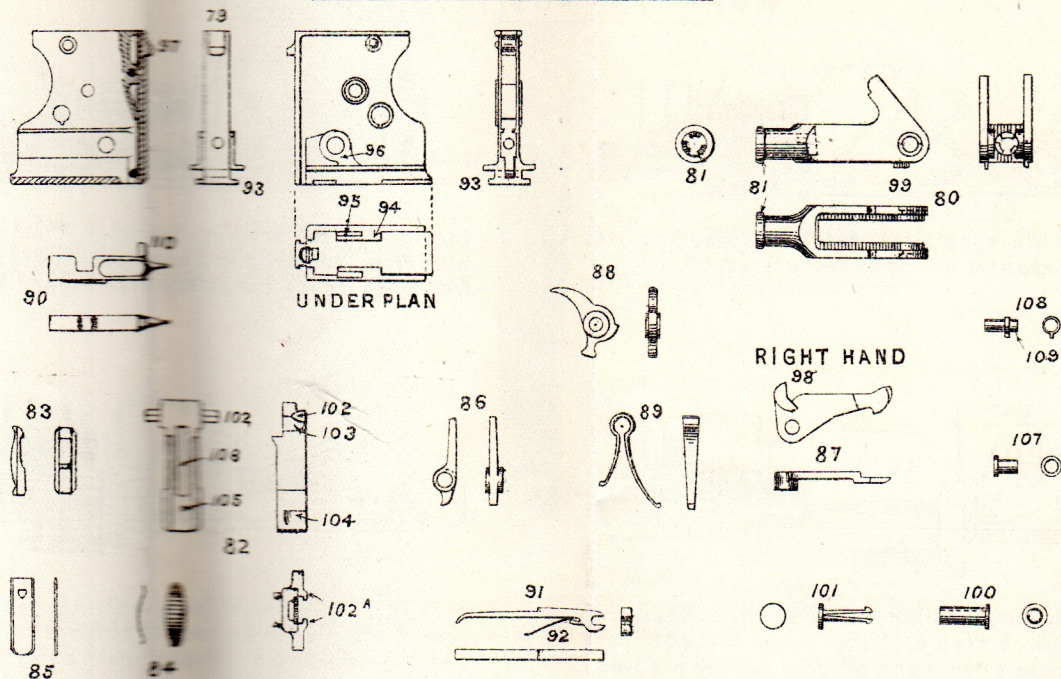


Plate VI.

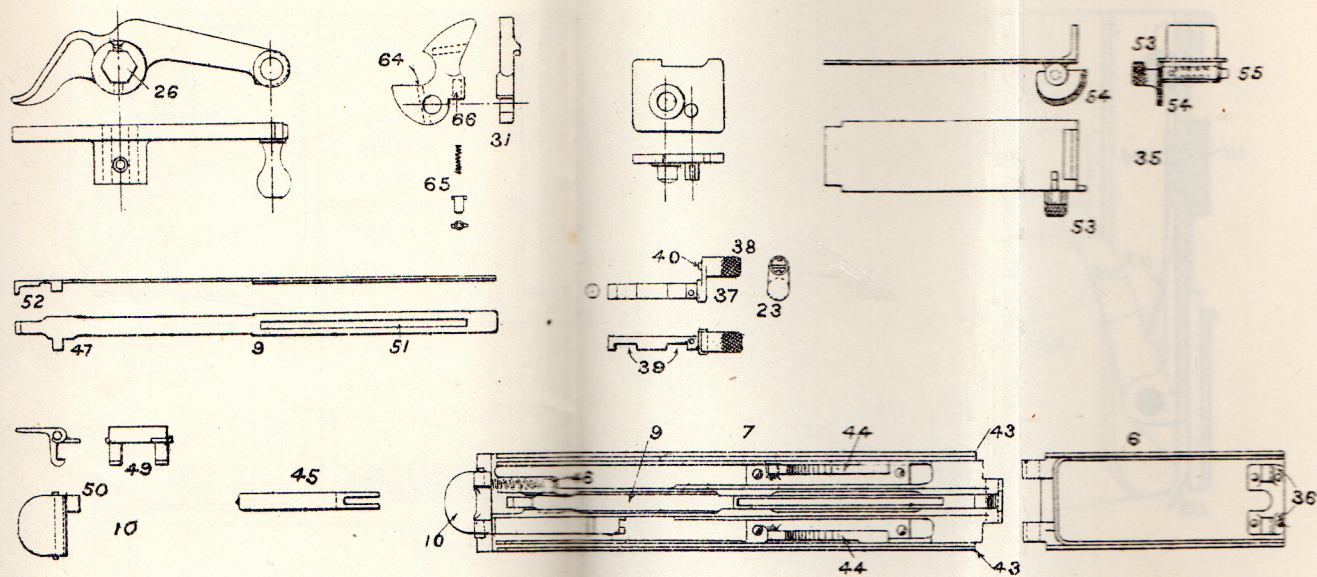
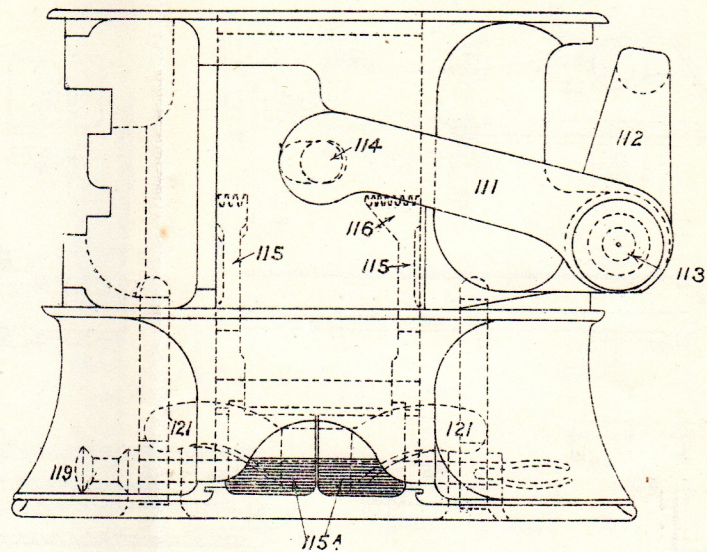
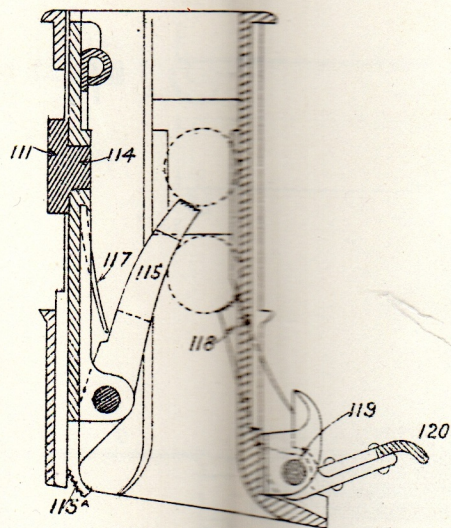


Plate VII.

FEED BLOCK.



MACHINE FILLING BELTS MAXIM, 303, MARK II.

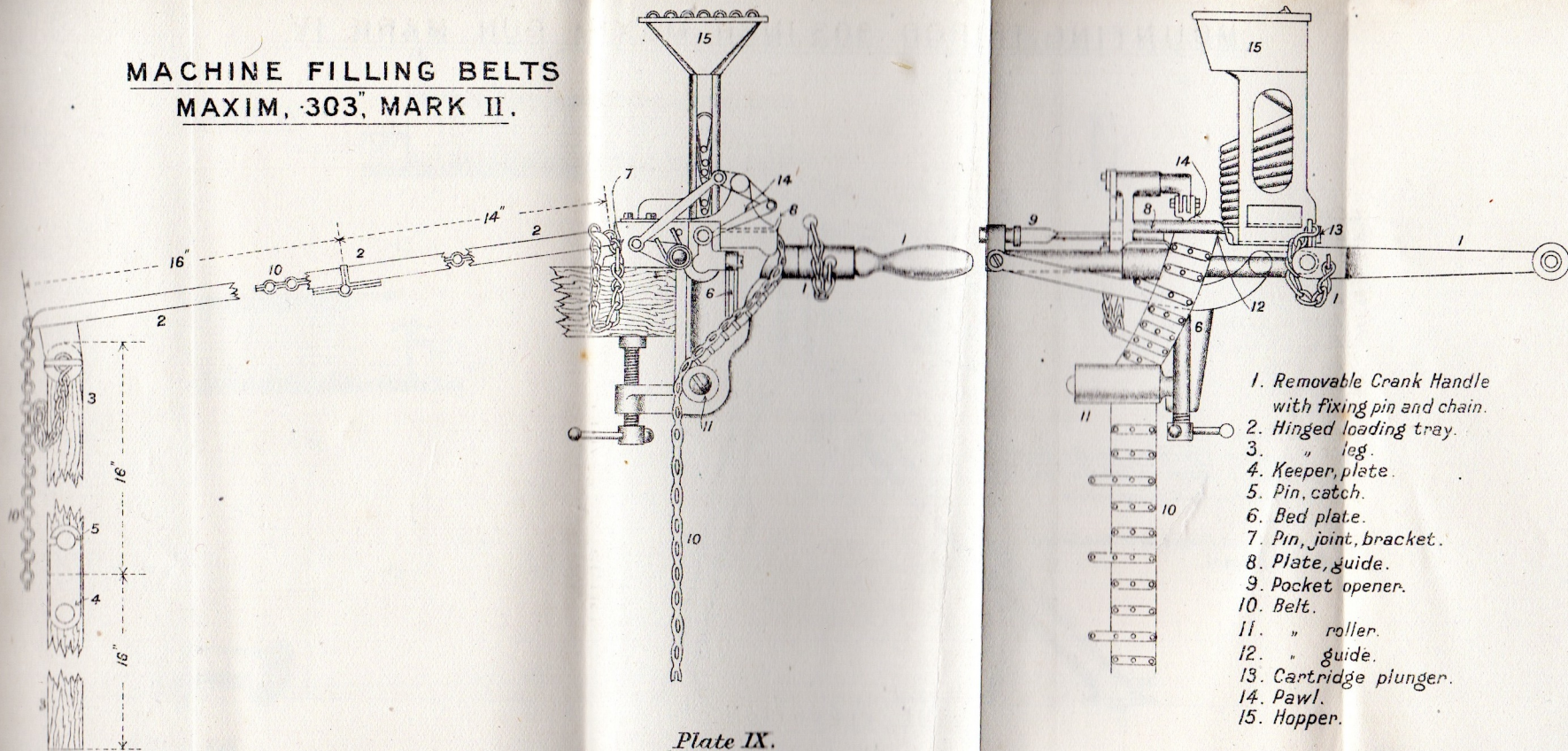
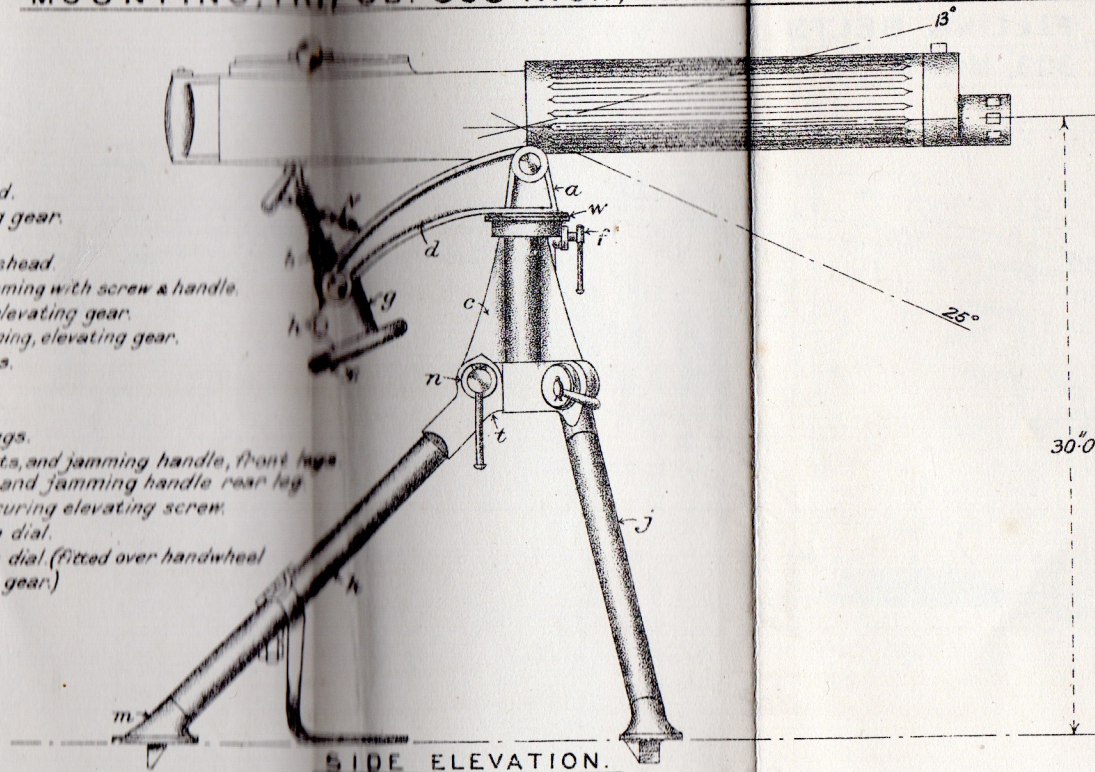


Plate IX.

1. Removable Crank Handle with fixing pin and chain.
2. Hinged loading tray.
3. " leg.
4. Keeper, plate.
5. Pin, catch.
6. Bed plate.
7. Pin, joint, bracket.
8. Plate, guide.
9. Pocket opener.
10. Belt.
11. " roller.
12. " guide.
13. Cartridge plunger.
14. Pawl.
15. Hopper.

MOUNTING, TRIPOD. 303 INCH, MAXIM GUN MARK IV.

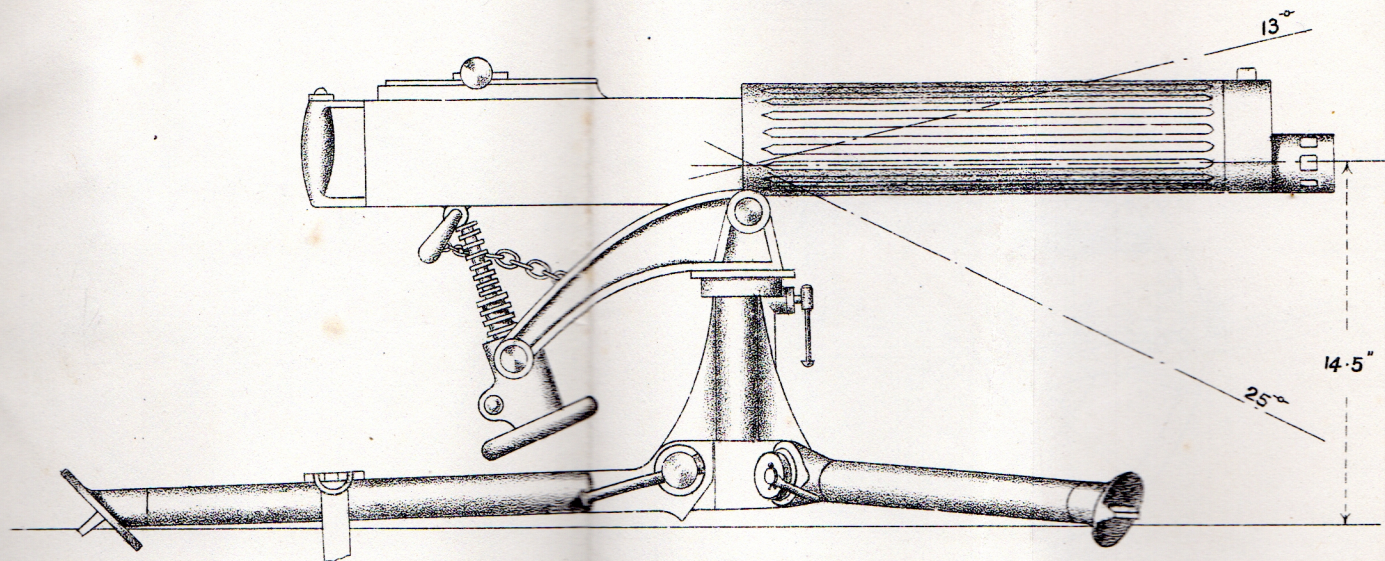
- a. Crosshead.*
- b. Elevating gear.*
- c. Socket.*
- d. Arm, crosshead.*
- f. Block, jamming with screw & handle.*
- g. Tumbler, elevating gear.*
- h. Bolt, jamming, elevating gear.*
- j. Front legs.*
- k. Rear leg.*
- m. Shoes.*
- n. Socket lugs.*
- s. Stud, joints, and jamming handle, front legs*
- t. Stud, pin and jamming handle rear leg*
- v. Chain, securing elevating screw.*
- w. Direction dial.*
- x. Elevation dial (fitted over handwheel elevating gear)*



SIDE ELEVATION.

MOUNTING, TRIPOD, 303 INCH, MAXIM GUN, MARK IV.

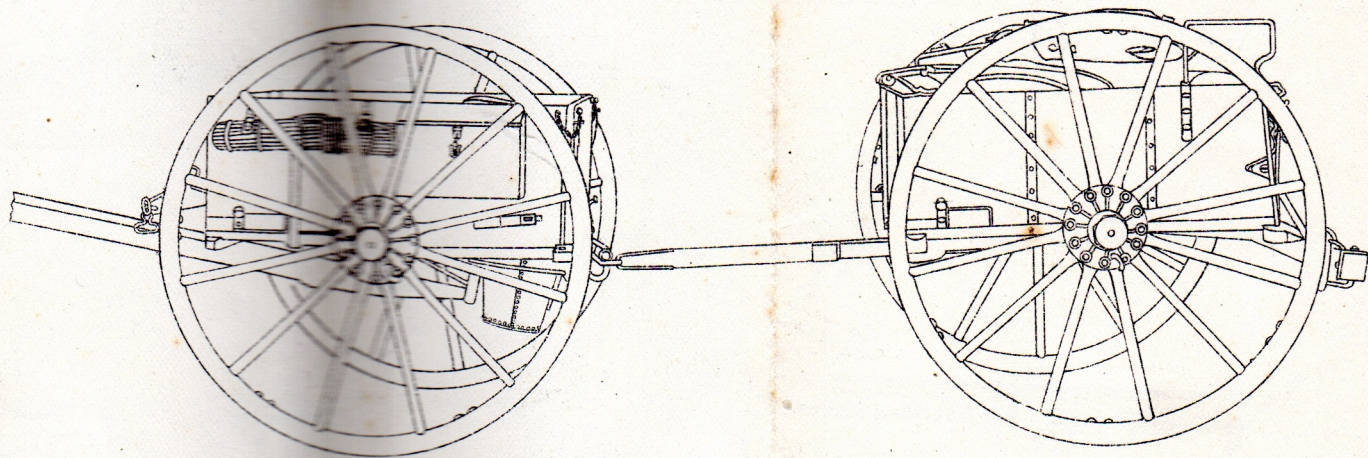
NOT TO SCALE.



SIDE ELEVATION.

WAGON, LIMBERED, G. S.
PACKED FOR CAVALRY MACHINE GUN SECTION.

SCALE ABOUT $\frac{1}{24}$.



M

G. S.
E GUN SECTION.

24.

